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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

Business

WorldCom fraud allegations: The former chief financial officer of WorldCom Inc. described ex-CEO Bernard Ebbers as directly involved in the \$11 billion accounting fraud that sank the telecommunications giant.

Scott Sullivan, the star government witness in Ebbers' federal fraud trial in New York, also described his boss as so fanatical about cost control he once complained employees were stealing coffee from the office.

Sullivan testified Monday that he had personally cooked the books at WorldCom to bring expenses, revenues and earnings per share in line with Wall Street estimates.

States

Robert Blake trial: A key prosecution witness in the Los Angeles murder trial of actor Robert Blake backed off of a claim that Blake tried to hire him to kill his wife and admitted he was a heavy user of cocaine and had experienced paranoid delusions.

Retired stuntman Gary McLarty, 64, told jurors Monday he met with Blake a few months before Bonny Lee Bakley was killed, but did not even know the woman's name afterward and had only inferred that Blake wanted her dead.

"A lot of people want to strangle their wives at times," McLarty said, "and it was possible he was just venting his anger."

Case against Jackson: A death in the family of pop star Michael Jackson's lead defense attorney has delayed jury selection in the molestation case by a week.

In Santa Maria, Calif., Superior Court Judge Rodney S. Melville rescheduled questioning Monday of prospective jurors to Feb. 14. Another defense attorney, Brian Oxman, said a sister of attorney Thomas Mesereau Jr. had died, but that he could not go into details because of the gag order on attorneys in the case.

In another development, the judge agreed to a request by attorneys for news organizations covering the case to allow reporters to view questionnaires answered last week by prospective jurors.

Church scam: A preacher has been convicted of stealing nearly \$9 million from hundreds of small, black churches across the country by promising them big returns on small investments.

Abraham Kennard was found guilty Monday by a federal jury in Rome, Ga., on 116 counts, including fraud and evasion.

Prosecutors said Kennard claimed his com-



MARTIN R. HARRIS/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Tsunami-relief mission: Sgts. Rene A. Angulo and Jesus A. Velasquez help members of the Rotary Foundation of Pattaya and Chantaburi, Thailand, paint a statue of Buddha at the Wat Plapla Kindergarten in Chantaburi on Monday. Angulo and Velasquez work for motor transportation, 3rd Materiel Readiness Battalion, 3rd Force Service Support Group. They're assigned to Combined Support Force-536, providing tsunami relief for countries in South Asia.

pany was developing Christian resorts around the country. He told preachers that for a fee of a few thousand dollars, their churches could be "members" of his company.

New commerce secretary: Carlos Gutierrez, the former chief executive of cereal giant Kellogg, was sworn in Monday in Washington as the nation's 35th commerce secretary.

On his first day on the job, Gutierrez spoke to employees at Commerce Department headquarters, pledging to build on the record of President Bush's first commerce chief, Donald Evans, who resigned to return to Texas.

"Through our efforts to open markets, we can work together with other departments and Congress to strengthen America's economy," Gutierrez said in brief remarks.

Conjoined twins operations: Ahmed Ibrahim, one of the formerly conjoined Egyptian twins, was doing well following a four-hour surgery to reconstruct his skull, surgeons said.

The surgery, performed Monday at Medical City Children's Hospital in Dallas, was the latest in a series of steps to ensure long-term survival for the 3-year-old twins, Ahmed and Mohamed Ibrahim. Mohamed's surgery to reconstruct his skull is set for March 9.

The boys, born joined at the tops of their

heads, were separated in October 2003 at Children's Medical Center Dallas.

Couple accused of torture: A couple accused of subjecting five of their adopted children to torture that included beating them with hammers and pulling out their toenails with pliers agreed Monday to be returned to Florida to face charges.

John and Linda Dollar were captured Friday in Utah after authorities tracked them through their cell phones. They face charges of aggravated child abuse.

The couple went on the run after all seven of their adopted children were removed from their home last month in the Tampa area.

World

Sri Lankan denies: Sri Lanka's government denied any involvement Tuesday in the killings of a top Tamil Tiger guerrilla leader and five others, which rebels blamed on paramilitary soldiers.

Tamil Tiger leader E. Kausalyan was killed Monday as he traveled to the eastern town of Batticaloa, about 135 miles east of Colombo, the capital, military spokesman Brig. Daya Ratnayake said.

From wire services

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Award team inspects every bit of Misawa

Evaluators eat in school cafeteria, talk to airmen and ride go-carts

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — They dined in the mess hall, food court, school cafeteria and the officers club ballroom. They also rode go-carts, walked through fitness centers, fire departments and dormitories, and talked with airmen of all ranks and units.

The team that will determine whether Misawa deserves the title "Best in the Air Force" and a \$1 million prize completed an exhaustive, day-and-a-half tour of this northern Japan base Tuesday.

Misawa is competing against McConnell Air Force Base, Kan., and RAF Lakenheath, England, for the 2005 Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence Award.

This is the second consecutive year Misawa is a finalist. As such, the base already is guaranteed \$500,000 for quality-of-life improvements.

Lead evaluator Brig. Gen. Mark Anderson and four Air Force wing commanders split up for much of the visit to cover as much ground as possible, base officials said.

Anderson said the evaluators are looking at "all components that go into operating a base," from airfield and flight operations to civil engineering, clubs and recreation centers.

The award recognizes Defense Department installations that have maximized their resources to "enhance both the mission and the people at their base," said Anderson, who works at the Pentagon as mobilization assistant to the deputy chief of staff for installations and logistics.

The team is looking for projects or programs that improve quality of life, enhance productivity, promote unit cohesiveness and recognize airmen's good deeds, he said. Also important are tenant unit partnerships, joint military service agreements and host nation relations, Anderson said.

"We're very, very pleased with what we've seen" so far, Anderson said of Misawa. The team has been to McConnell and was to depart Tuesday night for Lakenheath. The winner is to be announced later this year.

Tuesday morning, Anderson and evaluator Col. Andrew Weaver,



Brig. Gen. Mark Anderson, lead evaluator for the Commander in Chief's Installation Excellence Award team, takes a spin in a go-cart Tuesday morning at the Weasel's Den, Misawa Air Base, Japan. Misawa is one of three finalists for the Defense Department award that recognizes bases for maximizing resources to improve mission and quality of life. JENNIFER H. SVAN Stars and Stripes

er, from Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio, stopped at the Weasel's Den and experienced firsthand how the base put to use the 2004 installation excellence finalist money. Base officials said some of that money was spent adding a climbing wall and skateboard park to the indoor recreation center, which opened last year in Hangar 973. Anderson and Weaver didn't lace up their climbing shoes, but they took a spin in new electric go-carts with 35th Fighter Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Bill Rew and other wing leaders.

They also listened to a 35th Contracting Squadron briefing by Tech. Sgt. John Rogers, who noted the hangar was converted using Air Force, Navy and nonappropriated funds and is open to the base population, including Japan Air Self-Defense Force members.

Base officials undertook the \$246,000 project to improve quality of life for unaccompanied airmen and youth on base during Misawa's long, harsh winters.

Rogers touched on other recent base projects, from a new small

arms firing range to a \$1.2 million Grissom Dining Facility facelift.

"We mostly listen," Anderson said of the briefings.

But Anderson said he often quizzes airmen: "I like to ask if you were chosen as the installation excellence winner, what would like to change? I also ask them about quality of life: 'How long have you been here, would you like to stay?' Just to get a sense at a very personal level how the base is supporting the member and his or her family."

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@patriotpress.com

Something to cheer for

Dolphins cheerleaders share routines, tips with squads at Camp Zama workshop

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

CAMP ZAMA, Japan — Members of the Miami Dolphins Cheerleaders team whirled into the Camp Zama Youth Center under a flurry of pom-poms to dazzle and drill the two dozen or so kids and teens attending a short cheer workshop and performance.

After spending time with troops at the Super Bowl party Monday, the six visitors performed briefly then held the cheer clinic for the Youth Center cheerleading teams and Zama American High School cheerleaders.

"They taught the youngsters a few dances and encouraged them to smile and shake their pom-poms."

"They're really good. It was fun," said Stephanie Frye, a Zama American High School eighth-grader from Atsugi Naval Air Facility. "We were really excited."

The visit gave the young girls new ideas, a ton of encouragement and the thrill of seeing celebrities in the flesh.

"They're famous," said Nicole Phillips, also an eighth-grader from Atsugi.

While not all gathered want to be cheerleaders when they grow up, the visit helped many hone their skills.

"It gives you ideas," said seventh-grader Mokihana Layna, from Sagami-hara Housing Area.



Miami Dolphin cheerleaders, visiting Camp Zama to help celebrate the Super Bowl, teach skills to cheerleaders from the Zama American High School and the Youth Center cheer squads during a cheer-leading performance and clinic on Monday.

JULIANA GITTLER Stars and Stripes

Danielle Tomaka and Alexandra Sokol, fourth-graders at Sagami-hara's Arima Elementary School, liked that the cheerleaders performed for them and danced along-side.

The youngsters also did a few routines for their visitors.

"It gives the girls a chance to show off what they've learned," said Jill Tomaka, Danielle's mom. "It also gave the girls a chance to see professional [cheerleaders]."

The six Dolphins cheerleaders are touring Pacific bases as part of an Armed Forces Entertainment tour.

This year, the group added youth cheerleading workshops to their usual performances and morale stops.

The cheerleaders work with children and teens in Miami, so the clinics are old hat, said the group's director, Heather Phillips.

The 36 cheerleaders on the team compete for one of the six spots on the military base tours. They usually stop at locations where troops serve without families, but this time, they had a chance for more community involvement, Phillips said.

That is part of what made the event go so well, said Bob McKeta, director of commu-

cial sponsorship with Zama's Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

He had asked that Camp Zama be part of the next tour of visiting professional cheerleaders after reading about a cheerleading team's visit to another base during last year's Super Bowl. Once the visit was settled, the team said it could offer a teen clinic. The Youth Center, welcomed the event, McKeta said.

The event helped make what's usually a guy thing — watching the Super Bowl with gorgeous cheerleaders — a family event.

"Something for mom and dad and something for the kids, too," he said.

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittler@patriotpress.com

21 Iraqis die in deadliest postelection attack

BY JAMIE TARABAY

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber blew himself up in the middle of a crowd of army recruits Tuesday, killing 21 other people in the deadliest attack in Baghdad since last week's election and highlighting a recent shift by insurgents to use human bombs instead of cars.

Insurgents are strapping explosives on

the bodies of volunteers to penetrate the network of blast walls, checkpoints and other security measures designed to block vehicle bombs.

Several such attackers tried to disrupt voting in Baghdad on election day but were unable to get into polling stations. On Monday, a suicide bomber walked into a crowd of Iraqi policemen in the northern city of Mosul and detonated explosives, killing 12 of them.

Iraqi authorities initially said the Baghdad recruiting center was attacked by mortar fire, but witnesses reported only a single explosion and the U.S. military said the blast was caused by a suicide bomber on foot.

Attacks have steadily risen since the Jan. 30 elections, when a massive U.S. and Iraqi security operation prevented insurgents from disrupting the vote.

Those measures, including a ban on

most private vehicles, closing the borders and an extended curfew, were relaxed soon afterward.

An Internet statement posted Tuesday in the name of an al-Qaida affiliate led by Jordanian terror mastermind Abu Musab al-Zarqawi claimed responsibility for the attack on the recruiting center. "This is the beginning of the escalation we promised you," the statement said. Its source could not be verified.

New digs at Sasebo



GREG TYLER/Stars and Stripes

Workers began ripping up the pavement in the parking lot between Sasebo Naval Base's headquarters, the Tominga Building and the main base swimming pool on Tuesday. Explaining the Sasebo street repaving plan last year, Lt. j.g. Doug Herrin, resident officer in charge of construction, said the massive repaving project will cost about \$750,000. From the headquarters area, repaving is slated next down the Hirase Peninsula sector of California Drive and along Wisconsin Loop, which runs parallel to California in front of the Navy Lodge to the Bachelor Enlisted Housing buildings.

USNS Concord, HC-5 'Providers' return to Guam

The Military Sealift Command's USNS Concord and the Navy's Helicopter Squadron 5 arrived on Guam on Tuesday after supporting Operation Unified Assistance to provide relief to victims of the tsunamis that devastated several South Asian nations Dec. 26.

The Concord, operating from U.S. Naval Base Guam, and the HC-5, "Providers," based at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, deployed on Dec. 30 for the humanitarian assistance mission, a U.S. Naval Base Guam official said Tuesday.

About 20 service members from HC-5 accompanied the estimated 120 aboard the Concord, the officials added.

The Concord's crew delivered 555 pallets of rice, water, medical supplies and other items totaling 1.6 million pounds to victims, stated a release about the ship's accomplishments.

Yokota natoratorium area to close briefly Sunday

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Building 4338 of the base natoratorium will be closed from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. Sunday for scheduled maintenance, officials said.

Access to the locker room and shower facilities won't be available during that time but the fitness and sports gym in the Teen Center will operate during its regular hours. Visitors can access the gym through the side door between the buildings.

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From staff reports

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THE NEW SANNO

Purple: Mistaken medals

PURPLE, FROM PAGE 1

The Purple Heart pinned on him nearly two years earlier had been "an administrative error" because his wound was not "caused directly or indirectly by enemy action." Ten other Marines who sustained noncombat injuries got the same news, from the office of the commandant of the Marine Corps.

For a branch of the service that considers itself the most rigorous in the awarding of medals, such revocations are exceptionally rare, according to military historians and veterans. And for the 11 Marines, this was a final indignity added to the injuries they suffered in a war zone.

Even worse, they said, in a culture in which careers are chronicled by decorations on uniforms, was the shame they felt at having worn the medals for almost two years.

"It was a slap in the face. The way it was handled was atrocious," said 1st Lt. Dustin Ferrell, who was badly injured when his Humvee crashed into an Army truck. Gen. William Nylan, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, pinned the medal on his green hospital gown at the Bethesda medical center.

The Purple Heart, based on an award created by George Washington, is bestowed much more

frequently than medals such as the Silver and Bronze stars, which are given for exceptional acts of heroism and are based on nominations. Purple Hearts are awarded to those who meet guidelines for having sustained injuries related to combat with enemy forces.

Still, Cpl. Travis Eichelberger, 22, was featured on the local news and it seemed like everyone in his home town of Atchison, Kan., knew he had been awarded the medal. He even received the state-issued Purple Heart license plate when he bought his new GMC truck in 2003.

"When you wear it, people look at you and give you respect," said Eichelberger, still recovering from a broken pelvis and intestinal damage from being run over by an Abrams tank. "And now it's been taken away from us. What are we supposed to tell people? If they don't know the story, it makes us look as if we were lying."

The mistake grew out of confusion over the circumstances of the injuries, specifically the difference between wounds sustained in a combat zone and those caused by hostile action, said Charles Mugno, head of the Marine Corps Awards Branch. The injured Marines were among the first wave of casualties to return

from Iraq, he said, and there was a rush to honor them.

Ferrell was injured in the first days of the war when his Humvee, racing through the desert at night to secure a bridge in Nasiriyah, crashed into an Army truck. The driver was killed and two others were severely injured.

It was unclear from the casualty reports whether Ferrell deserved the award, Mugno said. An e-mail from an administrative officer said that he probably did meet the criteria, but it also was inconclusive.

Once the Marines Corps realized the error, it had no choice but to remove the awards from the Marines' records, officials said. They did not require that the medals be returned.

"The most important point is that the revocation was the right thing to do in order to maintain the sanctity and the specialness of the award," said Lt. Col. T.V. Johnson, a Marine Corps spokesman.

Purple Hearts have triggered controversy before, most recently in the 2004 presidential campaign. Some veterans challenged the three Purple Hearts, as well as the Silver Star, that Democratic nominee Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts received for his service as a Navy Swift boat commander in the Vietnam War.

Arellano said he felt so guilty about the medal that he refused to wear it. During a uniform inspection, "my sergeant major, who knew about the Purple Heart, said, 'Hey, you're not wearing it.' And I said, 'You know how I feel about that.'" He said the sergeant major ordered him to pin it on.

Knowing the fierce emotions surrounding military decorations, Arellano felt like a fraud wearing his medal. So when it was finally taken off his official record, "it relieved me of my guilt," he said.

Relieved though he may have been to have it finally revoked, Arellano also was angry. He had been ordered to accept the medal against his wishes, and he felt as though the Marines had forced him to shame himself every time he put it on.

"Nobody's perfect, and a lot of people make mistakes," he said. "But when it's such high-ranking officers, they should know better."



Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army

Command Sgt. Maj. John Sparks of the Coalition Forces Land Component command visits with Marine Staff Sgt. Robert Arellano, a supply sergeant with 5th Battalion, 11th Marines last year at the Kuwait Armed Forces Hospital. Arellano, of San Diego, was wounded during Operation Iraq Freedom and was receiving medical attention from the 865th Combat Support Hospital. He initially received a Purple Heart.

Ferrell felt the same way. With no memory of how he was injured, Ferrell said, he was told by medical staff that the Humvee had been driven in by a rocket-propelled grenade. About three months later, as the rest of his unit returned to Camp Lejeune, N.C., he learned what had really happened: There had been no RPG, his fellow Marines told him. He was in a traffic accident.

After hearing that his Humvee crashed into an Army truck, Ferrell felt that he still deserved to wear the medal, even if the circumstances under which it was

awarded had changed. He was in a combat zone, after all, with the war raging all around.

When it was revoked, he felt as if he had "disgraced" himself by wearing it in front of his fellow Marines, and he chastised higher-ups for the mistake.

"I would not dishonor that medal or myself by wearing the thing again, though sloppy admin allowed me to wear it and shame myself at TWO Marine Corps Birthday Balls," he wrote in an angry e-mail to an administrative officer last month.

Bobbie Pratt of The Washington Post contributed to this report.

The Purple Heart

The Purple Heart was established by Gen. George Washington at Newburgh, New York, on 7 August 1782, during the Revolutionary War. It was re-established by the President of the United States per War Department General Orders 3, 1932, and is currently awarded pursuant to Executive Order 11016, 25 April 1962, Executive Order 12464, 23 February 1984 and Public Law 98-525, 19 October 1984.

a. The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an Armed Force of any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after 5 April 1917, has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after being wounded.

- (1) In any action against an enemy of the United States.
- (2) In any action with an opposing armed force of a foreign country in which the Armed Forces of the United States have been engaged.
- (3) While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.
- (4) As a result of an act of any such enemy of opposing armed forces.
- (5) As the result of an act of any hostile foreign force.
- (6) After 28 March 1973, as a result of an international terrorist attack against the United States or a foreign nation friendly to the United States, recognized as such an attack by the Secretary of Army, or jointly by the Secretaries of the separate armed services concerned if persons from more than one service are wounded in the attack.
- (7) After 28 March 1973, as a result of military operations while serving outside the territory of the United States as part of a peace-keeping force.

b. While clearly an individual decoration, the Purple Heart differs from all other decorations in that an individual is not "recommended" for the decoration; rather he or she is entitled to it upon meeting specific criteria.

c. Amended in 1997 to limit to members of the armed services only

Source: Paragraph 2-8, Army Regulation 600-8-22 (Military Awards)

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Fast-food spots bring tiny taste of home to Iraq

BY CHRIS TOMLINSON
The Associated Press

CAMP LIBERTY, Iraq — Pass the ammunition and a slice of pizza.

U.S. soldiers in Iraq spend hours — sometimes days — on patrol hunting insurgents and dodging roadside bombs. But when they get back to base, they can pick up a case of Dr Pepper, buy the latest DVD and take a Pizza Hut meal back to the room to relax after a hard day at war.

A soldier's life isn't what it used to be. Commanders say providing a good quality of life is essential to keeping volunteer troops in the military. Having a chance to skip the mess hall and go to Pizza Hut, Burger King or Subway — Popeye's Fried Chicken and Taco Bell will be added this month — makes a big difference, soldiers say.

"I think it's great. The dining facility gets old after a while," said Spc. William Oates, 25, a 1st Cavalry Division soldier from Asheboro, N.C., after finishing a Whopper at Camp Liberty, just outside Baghdad.

The Army & Air Force Exchange Service operates 23 fast food franchises at 16 U.S. bases in Iraq, with 25 more approved and under construction. They also have Seattle's Best and Green Beans coffee shops.

McCoy, the food program manager for Iraq, opened the first Burger King at Baghdad's airport in May 2003, before the military even set up its first mess hall.

"This generation of soldiers has grown up with name-brand fast food," McCoy said. "It's the taste from home that they're missing. It not only gives them that little moment of comfort, I like to think it ... takes them back home for just the 15 minutes they are enjoying a Whopper."

The staff is a mix of American AAFES employees who volunteer for combat duty and workers from third countries hired through a labor company in Kuwait. Part of the base is set aside for their living quarters.

Armed convoys deliver the fast-food ingredients to the bases along with regular military supplies, McCoy said. Making sure the stores have enough stock for those times when the supply convoys don't run for the security reasons is the biggest challenge, he added.

While the fast food is extremely popular, AAFES' main mission is to operate 3,150 retail stores for troops on bases in 35 countries.

Their motto is "We go where you go," and stores



A U.S. soldier orders food from a Burger King at Camp Liberty in Baghdad on Monday. The Army & Air Force Exchange Service operates 23 fast food franchises at 16 U.S. bases in Iraq, with 25 more approved and under construction.

range from medium-size tents on remote fire bases to large department stores at the main camps.

At Camp Liberty's post exchange, or PX, soldiers can buy anything from a 50-cent granola bar to a \$3,499 42-inch, plasma-screen television. AAFES sells everything at prices comparable to those in the United States, with profits going toward troop morale programs.

Through its Web site, www.aafes.com, AAFES lets people donate phone cards and gift certificates to wounded troops overseas.

The Camp Liberty PX is on track to sell \$80 million worth of goods this year, said Rick Mora, the general manager for Baghdad.

The store is second in sales only to a larger facility at Kadena Air Base in Japan, he added.

AAFES also operates a phone service with AT&T so soldiers can call home cheaply. Troops can buy new cars and motorcycles that can be picked up when they get home. Iraqi vendors are rented space so they can sell souvenirs, art and other things to the troops.

Spc. Rakesh Pal, 23, from Modesto, Calif., said he likes to walk through the PX when he has free time, even if doesn't intend to buy anything.

"It reminds me of being back home at the mall," he said. "It doesn't feel like I'm in Iraq when I'm in the PX."

Ammo production expanded to avoid training shortage

BY STEPHEN J. HEDGES
Chicago Tribune

WASHINGTON — The pace of training and combat required of U.S. troops in Iraq is prompting the Army to quadruple its production of small-arms ammunition compared with prewar levels, a move intended to stave off an ammunition shortage like the one the Pentagon faced last summer.

The Army within months will award manufacturing contracts for ammunition used in its M-16 and M-4 rifles and 50-caliber guns. Since shortly after the Vietnam War, that ammunition has been made at only one location in the United States, the sprawling Lake City Army Ammunition Plant in Independence, Mo.

But the intensified training of troops, particularly National Guard and Reserve units that find themselves in hostile situations throughout Iraq, has meant units are quickly running through

the Pentagon's ammunition stockpiles. Last summer the Defense Department turned to ammunition makers in South Korea, Canada and Israel to supplement the weapons stocks.

The expanded contracts are another indication of just how intense the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have become, especially compared with the original expectations of military leaders and planners.

"We have had in the past shortages in small- and medium-caliber ammunition," said Col. Mark Rider, project manager for a maneuver ammunition systems at Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey. Rider is responsible for the Army's small arms ammunition.

He added, "None of the shortages were in Iraq with troops deployed in Iraq. What basically was going on is that our training requirement went up dramatically, and that caused a giant ramp-up in production."

U.S. judge rejects suit challenging stop loss

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal judge on Monday dismissed a lawsuit challenging the Army's right to force soldiers to serve past the dates of their enlistments, the so-called stop-loss policy that can keep men and women in uniform during war or national emergencies.

Spc. David Qualls had sought a preliminary injunction to prevent the Army from forcing him to remain on active duty, claiming his enlistment contract was misleading. He signed up for a one-year stint in the Arkansas National Guard in July 2003 but was later told he would remain on active duty in Iraq until 2005.

U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth for the District of Columbia said the enlistment contract does notify those who sign up that the government could extend their terms of service. While acknowledging minimal harm to the Army if he ordered Qualls released, Lamberth said similar claims could lead to substantial disruption and diversion of military resources.

The enlistments of an estimated 7,000 active-duty soldiers have been extended under the policy, which the Army says is needed.

In January, Qualls volunteered for another six-year stint in the Guard.

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IN THE WORLD

Sharon and Abbas agree to cease-fire

BY LARA SUKHITAN

The Associated Press

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas declared Tuesday that their people would stop all military and violent attacks against each other, pledging to break a four-year cycle of bloodshed and get peace talks back on track.

With the flags of their countries whipping in the wind, Sharon and Abbas met face-to-face at a Mideast summit, smiling broadly as they leaned across a long white table to shake hands. In one sign the talks went well, Egypt and Jordan announced afterward that they would return their ambassadors to Israel after a four-year absence — possibly within days.

But the Palestinian militant group Hamas immediately called the deal into question, saying it would not be bound by the cease-fire declarations and was waiting to see what Israel would do next.

As part of the deal, Israel will hand over control of five West Bank towns to the Palestinians within three weeks and release 500 Palestinian prisoners.

Those agreements, and the sight of Abbas and Sharon shaking hands, were the clearest signs yet of momentum in the peace process after Yasser Arafat's death in November and Abbas' election to succeed him in January.

One Israeli official, Gideon Meir, said "there was a great atmosphere in the talks ... smiles and joking."

An invitation to both sides to



Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, left, and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon shake hands prior to their delegations' meeting Tuesday at the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheik, Egypt.

meet separately with President Bush at the White House this spring added another round of momentum on the summit's eve.

"We have agreed on halting all violent actions against Palestinians and Israelis wherever they are," Abbas declared in a statement made after the meetings, as he, Sharon, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Jordan's King Abdullah II sat around a

round table.

Sharon made a similar pledge.

"Today, in my meeting with chairman Abbas, we agreed that all Palestinians will stop all acts of violence against all Israelis everywhere, and, at the same time, Israel will cease all its military activity against all Palestinians everywhere," he said.

Abbas said he expected the cease-fire pledges to pave the

way for resumption of talks on so-called "final status" issues such as borders, refugees and Jerusalem's status, all within the context of the Mideast "road map" to peace. Sharon said he also expected the deal Tuesday to set the stage for the implementation of the "road map."

Sharon also invited Abbas to visit him at his ranch in southern Israel and Abbas accepted, Meir said.

Shanley conviction isn't end to clergy sex-abuse scandal

BY DENISE LAVOIE

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The conviction of defrocked priest Paul Shanley was both a real and symbolic victory for victims of clergy sexual abuse. But the guilty verdict will not bring a quick end to the three-year scandal that has fractured the Roman Catholic church in Boston and across the country.

Although there is only one known criminal case pending against a priest within the Boston Archdiocese, there are more than 100 civil lawsuits accusing priests of sexually abusing children. And the pain felt across generations of children molested by their parish priest remains ever-present.

Boston attorney Carmen Dursio, who settled 40 lawsuits against the archdiocese in 2003, said he has filed another 25 lawsuits since then, naming 18 different priests. The Shanley trial, he said, has brought even more people calls to his office from people who say they were molested by priests.

The scandal erupted in Boston in 2002 after



Shanley

church files released publicly showed a decades-long history of a church hierarchy that regularly received complaints about priests who were molesting children. Instead of removing the accused priests, church officials moved them from parish to parish.

In September 2003, the archdiocese agreed to settle more than 550 civil lawsuits for \$85 million. The crisis led to the resignation of former Cardinal Bernard Law, and the appointment of Archbishop Sean O'Malley — who had received accolades for his handling of the aftermath of a smaller-scale sex abuse scandal when he headed the Fall River Diocese.

An investigation by the state attorney general eventually concluded that about 1,000 children within the Boston Archdiocese were molested by more than 240 priests since the 1940s.

The crisis that unfolded in Boston spread across the country, leading to thousands of lawsuits being filed against other dioceses that accused priests of abusing children.

"It's incredible just how pervasive this is around the country," said Dursio. "By letting Boston get to the dimensions that it did, the church ensured that this thing would be like wildfire going across the country."

These days, the epicenter has shifted and California has become ground zero for clergy abuse complaints.

More than 800 civil cases are pending against Roman Catholic dioceses in California, about 500 of those against the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. In December, a record \$100 million settlement between alleged victims and the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange County resolved 90 lawsuits with allegations that spanned six decades — from 1936 to 1996.

Shanley, now 74, was one of the most notorious priests in the scandal. He was convicted Monday of repeatedly raping and fondling a boy at a parish outside Boston in the 1980s.

Rice: Clashes with Europe only in past

BY ANNE GEARAN

The Associated Press

PARIS — Trying to mend fences with Europe, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Tuesday "It is time to turn away from the disagreements of the past" that alienated longtime allies over the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

France was the most vocal opponent of President Bush's handling of the war with Iraq, and the new secretary of state deliberately chose Paris for the major address of her first official tour of Europe.

But Rice did not back down from Bush's pledge to spread freedom across the globe and added a challenge to Europeans.

"America stands ready to work with Europe on our common agenda and Europe must stand ready to work with America," she said at Paris's Science Politique.

"After all, history will surely judge us not by our old disagreements, but by our new achievements," she said.

Science Politique, known in France as Science Po, is a school of political science that has been at the center of recent debate over America's reach and power. Some 500 students and intellectuals were attending and Rice was to take questions from the audience.

Following her speech, Rice answered a series of questions, ranging from Iraq's effort to establish a democracy to the development of biological weapons. She told the students and guests that the Iraqis now would engage in a political process to form a government rather than be at odds with religion.

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Kuwait threatens papers for divulging security info

BY DIANA ELIAS
The Associated Press

KUWAIT CITY — Kuwait's Cabinet will suspend or shut down newspapers that publish information about ongoing investigations with suspected terrorists or any unauthorized security information, the prime minister warned in remarks published Tuesday.

Sheik Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah, speaking of editors-in-chief of the country's seven daily newspapers, also outlined other measures Kuwait is taking — including closing unlicensed mosques and reviewing religious school textbooks — to fight intolerance. All the papers reported the meeting.

This small oil-rich state since last month has been locked in an unprecedented battle against Muslim militants accused of planning to attack the country's state security as well as American civilians and members of the U.S. military serving here or on their way to neighboring Iraq.

"What a journalist considers a scoop could ... endanger the safety of security men or the investigations with suspects in custody, and help fugitives still being chased," Al-Rai Al-Aam daily quoted Sheik Sabah as saying.

Several of Kuwait's privately owned newspapers have published details about investigations and police raids without identifying their sources. Some have mentioned names of security officers and details about the operations, including how suspects were moving around Kuwait and in which cars.

Newspapers that don't comply with the new order will be temporarily suspended or their licenses will be withdrawn, Sheik Sabah said, according to the newspapers. The country's 1961 Press Law, which is widely opposed by civil-rights activists, gives the Cabinet that right.

Since Jan. 10, police have clashed with Muslim fundamentalists and pursued them around the country, killing eight militants. Some 40 terror suspects have been detained and are being interrogated by the prosecution. Others are still at large. Among those in custody is suspected ring leader Amer Khalf al-Enezi, a former mosque preacher.

Two of five suspects who surrendered to police Sattar Sabah, west of Kuwait City, have been released, an Interior Ministry official told The Associated Press, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. He declined to elaborate.



Peruvian doctor Luis Rubio plays with 9-month-old baby Milagros Cerron, who has sirenomella, or "mermaid syndrome." Milagros, whose name means "miracle" in Spanish, was born with the rare congenital defect in which her legs are fused together. Doctors soon will attempt surgery to separate her legs. The often-fatal condition occurs in 1 out of every 70,000 births, and there are just three known cases of children with the affliction alive in the world today.

'Mermaid syndrome' baby set for surgery

BY CARLA SALAZAR
The Associated Press

LIMA, Peru — Milagros Cerron smiles, babbles and fidgets in the arms of her mother like any healthy 9-month-old, but she is no ordinary baby. Milagros was born with her legs fused in a tight coating of skin — giving her the appearance of a mermaid.

"When I saw her for the first time, I felt pain," said Milagros' mother, 19-year-old Sara Aruico. "In that moment I thought, 'What will she do with her life? Was God going to take her away or not? Was she going to live or not?'"

A team of Peruvian doctors believes Milagros is the perfect candidate for surgery to separate her legs — something that has never been tried before in Peru. They plan to attempt the operation Feb. 24 and hope that after a few years of treatment, Milagros will be able to live a normal life.

"Our dream is for Milagros to be able to run, walk and play like every normal child," said Dr. Luis Rubio, the leader of the medical team.

Milagros, who looks months younger than her actual age, was born with a rare congenital defect known as sirenomella, or "mermaid syndrome." The condition occurs in 1 out of every 70,000 births and there are only three known cases of children with the affliction alive in the world today.

The deformity is almost al-

ways fatal within days of delivery due to serious defects to vital organs. But Milagros — whose name means "miracles" in Spanish — has survived.

Although most of Milagros' organs, including her heart and lungs, are in perfect condition, she was born with serious internal defects, including a deformed left kidney and a very small right one located very low in her body.

In addition, her digestive and urinary tracts and her genitals share a single tube.

Sirenomella is usually fatal because of complications associated with abnormal kidney and bladder development and function.

Milagros' doctors have managed to stave off kidney and bladder infections, allowing her to continue to grow, Rubio said.

His medical team has been studying the case of Tiffany Yorks, a 16-year-old American girl born with sirenomella whose legs were successfully separated when she was a baby. Rubio said Yorks' surgeon, Mutaz Habib, has provided invaluable advice to the Peruvian doctors.

During a recent hospital checkup, Aruico and Milagros' father, Ricardo Cerron, 24, watched with tenderness as their child was placed on a hospital bed and instinctively made her way toward them.

"The truth is when I saw my baby when she was born I was filled with desperation," Cerron recalled.

Tokyo reports record number of gropers on commuter trains

The Associated Press

TOKYO — A record 2,201 cases of groping on Tokyo commuter trains were reported to police last year, with more than half committed during the jam-packed morning rush hour, police said Tuesday.

The complaints, the largest number since police started the tracking the problem more than 40 years ago, led to 1,897 arrests for groping in 2004, police said.

Groping has long been a prob-

lem on Tokyo's crowded subways and other commuter trains, particularly during the morning and late-night rush hours. Passengers often are tightly pressed against each other, an inviting environment for potential offenders.

Teenage girls, many of them in miniskirt school uniforms, were the most frequent targets, and accounted for about one-third of the victims, police said.

New reports said the arrested suspects ranged from 14 to 80, with men in their 30s making up

more than one-third.

Police plan to increase patrolling on trains and platforms to reduce the crime, and urge train operators to step up measures, including the use of more single-sex train cars.

In recent years, some train operators have introduced "women only" cars, but the number of cars and service hours are largely limited.

Gropers can be imprisoned for up to seven years.

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Extreme home makeover for the gods

Japan readies for ritual reconstruction of shrine

BY JOSEPH COLEMAN
The Associated Press

ISE, Japan — Lanterns and flaming torches emerge from the darkness as a robed priestess walks below centuries-old pine trees.

Rows of solemn priests follow her up a long stone staircase, carrying a cedar-wood box of purified offerings — fish, rice, vegetables.

Beyond the wooden gate at the starlit summit lies Japan's most sacred Shinto shrine, the inner sanctum of the sun goddess Amaterasu Omikami, who legend says founded the world's oldest surviving imperial line thousands of years ago. In a few months, the stewards of the Grand Shrine of Ise, or Jingu, will begin constructing replicas of these buildings, then transfer the deities to the new sites and commit what seems unthinkable: tear down the old ones.

Destroying some of the country's most cherished religious monuments sounds like madness, but the removal and rebuilding of Jingu — performed every two decades — is a ritual of purification and renewal that stretches back 1,300 years and forms the heart of Shinto.

"Through the rebuilding, ancient Japanese tradition is preserved for eternity. You can call Jingu a time-capsule we have inherited," said Yoshihisa Ishigaki, a priest showing visitors the place where one of the new shrines will be built.

"If you look at this shrine, you'll

see what Japan is, who the Japanese are," he said.

That's a bold claim — and one often made by Shinto proponents. Lacking dogma or overarching principles, Shinto is based on ancient rites associated with beseeching the gods — some 8,000 of them — for bountiful harvests, prosperity and good health. The creed sees natural objects such as trees or mountains as spiritual beings, and its flexibility has allowed generations of Japanese to claim both Shintoism and Buddhism as their religions.

Shinto, however, also has its dark side. It is closely identified with the emperor as its head priest, and modernizers in the 1800s seeking to unify spiritual and political power made Shinto the state religion, setting the stage for the emperor-worship, jingoism and concepts of racial purity that fueled Japanese militarism in the first half of the 20th century.

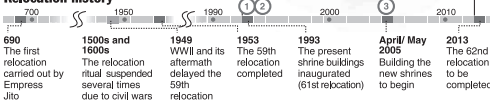
Shinto was split from the state after World War II and the emperor renounced his divinity through the Shinto elite, struggling to maintain its relevance in a modern, secular state, still loudly declares itself the legitimate guardian of Japanese native identity, pointing to the millions who crowd shrines on New Year and other auspicious days.

If any Shinto shrine can lay claim to this guardianship role, it's the Jingu. The complex, about 200 miles southwest of Tokyo, has been the pre-eminent seat of Shintoism for centuries and contains

Rebuilding the heart of Shinto

The Grand Shrine of Ise, Japan's most sacred Shinto complex, is where the legendary ancestors of Japan's imperial family are enshrined. Every two decades the shrine is torn down and rebuilt in a ritual of purification and renewal stretching back some 1,300 years.

Relocation history



SOURCE: Grand Shrine of Ise

the holiest of Japanese relics: a mirror that legend says lured the sun goddess from her cave, bringing light to the heavens. While Jingu priests say the shrine was founded 2,000 years ago, it was established in the historical record sometime in the seventh century.

As far as Shinto rites go, *Jingu Shikinen Sengu* — shrine removal — is the ultimate.

"The ritual system at its core and its symbolism have remained fundamentally the same" since the 600s, said Rosemary Bernard, an anthropologist and Grand Shrine specialist who teaches at Waseda University in Tokyo. It works in 20-year cycles. The monuments stand for 12 years, then eight years of rebuilding begins. Over the centuries the cycle has often been disrupted, by civil war in the previous millennium, for instance, and for four years by World War II. In recent decades, the shrines were rebuilt in 1953, 1973 and 1993. In May a fresh eight-year process will begin with

the cutting of the timber for the new buildings, followed by myriad ceremonies culminating in the removal of the old shrines in October 2013 — the 62nd time it has been performed.

It's a massive undertaking, centering on the rebuilding of the two top shrines at Ise, the "inner shrine" for Amaterasu and the "outer shrine" housing the spirit of Toyotake Omikami, the god of clothing, food and shelter, and 14 other ancillary shrines.

The process is more than just a huge construction project.

The new shrines are rebuilt in land next to the shrines being replaced. The new grounds are ritually purified and the deities — along with the sacred mirror — are moved to the new abodes. The old buildings are then dismantled and recycled in other structures on the grounds.

Legions of artisans re-carve the cypress wood shrines, which are fitted together without nails, safeguarding millennia-old techniques.

Besides the buildings themselves, tradesmen also remake thousands of sacred objects housed in the shrines, all constructed with original materials and ancient methods.

That practice makes the Jingu into a repository of 1st millennium Japanese culture.

The Grand Shrine operates in many ways as an isolated time capsule. The complex has its own rice and vegetable fields for growing foods to offer the deities, purified fire for cooking is produced with wood rather than matches or stoves. The 13,600-acre grounds even sport their own sail field. With so much cultural wealth at stake, the priests at Ise bristle at constitutional divisions of religion and state that prevent the government from contributing money to the shrines. The upcoming rebuilding project is expected to cost a whopping \$530 million, coming from private donations, including from the emperor.

Japan hopes rocket relaunch will fire up space program

BY AIKO HAYASHI
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Grounded for more than a year, Japan's space agency has begun the countdown to launch its domestically built H2-A rocket later this month — a high-stakes move officials hope

will reopen the way for everything from putting spy satellites in orbit to moving ahead with ambitious scientific missions.

The launch, scheduled for Feb. 24, is crucial to Japan's space program. After five consecutive successes beginning in 2002, an H2-A carrying two spy satellites

veered off course shortly after liftoff in November 2003 and was destroyed by mission controllers in a spectacular mid-air fireball. Officials say a faulty booster caused the failure.

The loss was devastating because the H2-A is the workhorse of Japan's program. The investigation into the cause of the malfunction put virtually all of this country's missions on hold.

To make matters worse, it came just a month after rival China put its first man into space, a feat Japan has yet to accomplish.

"The success of the H2-A rocket launch this time will have a huge impact on the Japan's future space programs," said Katsuki Koyama, a space science professor at Kyoto University. "Japan understands that, and has moved to pursue a manned space

mission as well."

Officials said Tuesday they are in the final stages of preparation for this month's launch at Tanegashima, a remote island about 700 miles southwest of Tokyo. The rocket will carry a multipurpose weather and communications satellite.

The rocket will carry a replacement for the Himawari 5, a weather observation satellite that stopped working properly in 2004, prompting Japan to rely on a U.S. satellite for weather data.

The satellite will also give air traffic controllers the positions of aircraft flying over the ocean.

JAXA has several more launches planned for the year ahead.

Questions linger over where Japan's space program is headed, however.

Japan launched its first rocket

in 1970, and is one of the very select group of nations that have succeeded in sending a probe to the moon. It is planning the biggest moon mission since the U.S. Apollo project, and sending probes to Venus and Mercury.

Although Japan had long said it wasn't interested in pursuing manned space flight, the government has now established a Cabinet task force to study the possibility of doing so in the next 20 to 30 years.

The significance of Japan's H2-A, meanwhile, is dimming. Though initially hailed as a showcase of Japanese technology and a potential rival to U.S. and European rockets in the commercial launching business, it remains exorbitantly expensive and has yet to carry a commercial payload.

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IN THE STATES

Bush urges Congress to be spend thrifty

BY NEDRA PICKLER

The Associated Press

DETROIT — President Bush said Tuesday that Congress must bring discipline to the federal budget and cut failing or unnecessary programs even if they have laudable goals.

"It is essential that those who spend the money in Washington adhere to this principle — a taxpayer dollar ought to be spent wisely or not spent at all," Bush

told the Detroit Economic Club.

Bush sent Congress a \$2.57 trillion budget Monday that drastically cuts or eliminates 150 federal programs, including subsidies paid to farmers, health programs for poor people and veterans and spending on the environment and education.

Bush said every program on the chopping block is failing to meet its goals, duplicates other available services or is not an essential priority for the federal gov-

ernment. Bush singled out farm subsidies. "I think that no farmer should get \$250,000 a year in subsidy," Bush said, adding that cutting the subsidies will save \$1.2 billion over the next decade.

Bush also cited Even Start, a 16-year-old literacy program for poor families. Bush said everyone wants poor people to learn to read, but three evaluations have made it clear that Even Start is not working.

"Congress needs to join with

me to bring real spending discipline to the federal budget," Bush said to applause.

Bush's slimmed-down budget proposal is just one of the conservative fiscal policies he plans to push in his second term as he tries to continue expanding the economy and improve the slowly recovering job market. Bush also wants tax cuts, deregulation, free trade and more modern training for the work force.

Questions about the health of

the jobs market was a hot-button issue in the presidential campaign that contributed to Bush's loss in Michigan.

Employment figures released last week provided a reprieve to the White House. While the addition of 146,000 jobs was small, it gave Bush a net gain of 119,000 jobs during his first term and allowed him to escape being the first president since Herbert Hoover to have a net loss of jobs on his watch.

Deficit-cutting measures are tough to envision, critics say

BY DAVID ESPO

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush gave faint praise Monday to the deficit-cutting measures contained in his own budget. Not surprisingly, congressional Democrats were far less polite.

Bush's claim to cut government red ink in half over five years omits the cost of wars in Afghanistan and Iraq beyond Sept. 30. It reckons, implausibly, that neither he nor the Republicans who control Congress will want new tax cuts in future years.

It underestimates by many billions the money needed for Social Security overhaul. And it assumes that the GOP-con-

trolled Congress will send veterans a new \$21 billion bill for health care through 2010.

It also assumes that lawmakers will acquire discipline when it comes to hometown projects.

If the numbers in Bush's glossy budget book weren't clear enough about administration goals, the president personally supplied the emphasis.

"Our priorities are winning the war on terror, protecting our homeland, growing our economy," said the chief executive who seeks increased spending on defense and homeland security, and wants previously enacted tax cuts made permanent.

The budget "focuses on results. ... It's a budget that reduces and eliminates redundancy," he said. That's code for merging some programs, eliminating others and squeezing domestic programs generally.

Finally, Bush got to the deficit, making it fifth in line in his prepared recitation.

"People on both sides of the aisle have called upon the administration to submit a budget that helps meet our obligations of our goal of reducing the deficit in half over a five-year period, and this budget does just that," he said.

If the targets are met, the budget book says, the remaining deficit will be "lower than all but seven of the last 25 years."

As a rousing endorsement, that might rate a 25 on a scale of 1 down to 25.

Democrats reacted like they had been handed a club to use against a president who just won re-election and led the GOP to bigger congressional majorities.

Sen. Kent Conrad of North Dakota, the senior Democrat on the Budget Committee, said deficits will be far greater than the administration estimates. If Bush's plans were adopted, he forecast ominously, "deficits and debt would continue to explode at an unsustainable rate and the nation's long-term economic security would be threatened."

Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the second ranking Democrat in the House, added, "In four short years, this administration has turned record budget surpluses into deficits as far as the eye can see."

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Professor's case stands out on scandal-ridden campus

Essay has led to threats, arrests at Univ. of Colo.

By DAN ELLIOTT
The Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — Crisis after crisis has buffeted the University of Colorado over the past year, from a sex scandal in the football program to the alcohol poisoning death of a fraternity pledge at a campus trying to shed its party-school image.

But nothing has incited more passion and outrage than Ward Churchill, an ethnic studies professor whose comparison of World Trade Center victims to a notorious Nazi has led to death threats, arrests and condemnations by two governors. Talk-show hosts and lawmakers have vilified him as a hate-monger and the school is considering firing him.

Churchill has refused to apologize; on the contrary, he has threatened to sue the school if it fires

him. No one has defended Churchill's statements, but some people have threatened him.

Two students were arrested at a Board of Regents meeting last week and swastikas were spray-painted on Churchill's pickup truck.

On Monday, Colorado administrators announced they had canceled a speech by Churchill for Tuesday because of security concerns.

Earlier this month, Hamilton College in upstate New York canceled a speech by Churchill because of death threats against the professor and his administrators.

Just exactly how free Churchill — as a tenured, taxpayer-supported professor — is to speak his mind is the fundamental question being argued.

Churchill wrote an essay shortly

after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks comparing those killed to "little Eichmanns," because of their participation in what he called "the mighty engine of profit." Adolf Eichmann was the Nazi who organized plans to exterminate European Jews.

The essay, "Some People Push Back," attracted little notice until last month, after Churchill was invited to speak at Hamilton, a private liberal arts school. Hamilton professor Theodore Eismeier said he found the essay on the Internet during what he calls "a casual effort to learn more about Churchill."

In an e-mail to The Associated Press, Eismeier said he urged administrators to withdraw Churchill's invitation. When they did not, he alerted Ian Mandel, the editor of Hamilton's student newspaper who published a story about



Veronica Crespin on Friday searches the Internet for stories about University of Colorado Professor Ward Churchill at her office at the student union in Boulder, Colo. Churchill's writings. Within days, the essay was national news.

Churchill has resigned as chairman of the ethnic studies department.

Civil liberties advocates say Churchill's comments would have provoked controversy in any era. But the massive loss of life on Sept. 11 intensified the reaction, said Kathryn Hazouri, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Colorado.

Bush seeks to maintain DOD policy on gays

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration on Monday asked a federal court to dismiss a lawsuit challenging the Pentagon's 11-year-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy.

The government said last year's landmark Supreme Court ruling that overturned state laws making gay sex a crime does not undercut the military's policy that allows gays and lesbians to serve as long as they abstain from homosexual activity and don't reveal their sexual orientation.

Courts previously have upheld the policy, approved by Congress and put in place by the Clinton administration.

"These decisions are unaffected by the Supreme Court's decision," the administration said in a filing in U.S. District Court in Boston.

Twelve gays expelled from the military because of their sexual orientation filed the legal challenge in December, citing the Supreme Court ruling that state laws making homosexual sex a crime were unconstitutional.

Damp but festive, Mardi Gras parties roll into New Orleans

By MARY FOSTER
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Gray skies don't slow the partying. Neither do a few rain drops.

A light rain Monday made the festivities leading up to Mardi Gras a little messier. The parade routes were muddy, but crowds made the best of the weather, pulling out umbrellas and rain jackets. But the show went on, as did the drinking, eating and shouts of "Happy Mardi Gras!"

"Rain? Who cares," said Tina Black, 30, of Los Angeles. "As long as it doesn't get cold. I have a really skimpy costume and I hate cold."

Black and thousands of others lined up to watch the Proteus and Orpheus lavish parades, headed by entertainer Harry Connick Jr.

Fireworks filled the sky while strollers on Bourbon Street — beers in hand — tried to grab the strings of gold, green and purple beads tossed from the balconies above.

"This is it, baby," said Paul Perrin, 22, of Dallas, from his lawn chair along the parade route on St. Charles Avenue. "You're either ready or you stay home. It's no place for the weak."

Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, is one of New Orleans' biggest tourist events. Merchants and bartenders, however, said business was brisk in the French Quarter, though down from previous years.

At fault: the weather and the calendar — the annual pre-Lenten bash falls early this year.

"It's definitely off," said Fallon Daumhauer, a bartender at Johnny White's in the French Quarter for 21 years. "It's not the best weather and it's so early. Too close to Christmas, not close enough to spring break to get the college kids in."

Still, workers rushed to stock their shelves and clean up for the final time before Ash Wednesday. Piles of trash bags were hauled out of bars; cases of drinks were loaded in.

"We've got to get it done and get out of here before noon," said Phillip Ocburn of Crescent Crown Distributors. "After that forget it."

Earlier Monday, Beverly and Chester Lott munched beignets. The Mississippi couple had already seen five parades and what they called some fantastic street theater.

"We love it. It's the best time you can have anywhere," said Beverly Lott, sporting a huge orange



Michelle Levine of New Orleans dances her way through the streets of New Orleans during the Mardi Gras celebration Tuesday.

vig. "We came for the first time last year, and plan to be back every year."

A daylong party was held on the banks of the Mississippi River with music and the landing of the faux royalty for the Zulu and Rex parades, the two biggest to roll Tuesday.

There were no reports of violence, one day after a man was shot along a parade route near the French Quarter. Police released little information about Sunday's shooting, however.

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Film spurs re-opening of 50-year-old case

BY AUDRA D.S. BURCH

The Miami Herald

MIAMI — Keith Beauchamp has spent much of the past decade sorting through the disparate memories of Mississippi, traveling the state looking for truth. He has sought the truth in the notorious case of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old black youth who whistled at a white woman in a small town and was abducted, tormented and murdered, his body dumped into the Tallahatchie River.

In large part, Beauchamp's work was what prompted the U.S. Justice Department and the Mississippi district attorney's office to reopen the case last spring — 50 years after Till died. The 70-minute documentary is titled "The Untold Story of Emmett Louis Till."

"I believe this project is more than a movie. It's a movement," says Beauchamp, 33. "I think, or at least I hope, that filmmaking is the new way of activism."

Beauchamp's documentary comes as the nation is showing renewed interest in civil rights cold cases. Last month, Edgar Ray Killen was charged in the murder of three voter registration workers killed in 1954 in Philadelphia, Miss. In 1998, Ku Klux Klan member Sam Bowers was convicted of ordering the killing of civil rights leader Vernon Dahmer. And four years earlier, Byron De La Beckwith was convicted in the 1963 murder of civil rights leader Medgar Evers.

Bouyed by the cases, Beauchamp set out to give Till his due, to give voice to a Chicago

teen who went to see family in Mississippi in 1955 and returned in a box.

"Keith's hard work just may give Till the justice he deserves, and allow Mississippi to finally heal," says Ben Chaney, brother of James Chaney, one of three civil rights workers killed in Philadelphia, Miss., in 1964.

Less than a month after Till's body was discovered, an all-white jury acquitted Roy Bryant and his half-brother, J.W. Milam, of the murder despite witness testimony. They did so in 67 minutes, and a juror suggested the time would have been even shorter had they not taken a soda break. Afterward, Bryant and Milam sold their stories for \$4,000 to a magazine and detailed the murder in all its ghouliness.

When Till's broken body was returned to

Chicago, his mother, Mamie Till-Mobley, insisted on an open casket so the world could see the hues of hatred exacted against her baby boy. The incident, wrapped in issues of race and sexuality and human rights, became one of the most powerful propellers of the civil rights movement. Blacks and whites alike were sickened by the image of the teenager's grotesque corpse and the culture that had borne it. Just 100 days later, Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on a Montgomery, Ala., bus.

Beauchamp, who grew up in Baton Rouge, La., and lives in New York, still remembers how sobered he was by Till's picture in an issue of Jet magazine.

"I was shocked. I found myself on this journey," he says. "And I realized very quickly that a certain kind of racism still exists in the Deep South."



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City tries to reconcile years of racial hurt

As Greensboro remembers its past, discrimination remains an issue

BY WILLIAM L. HOLMES
The Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — Workers hustled around the shell of the old F.W. Woolworth Co. store, hanging windows and a candy-striped awning in preparation for the 45th birthday of the civil rights sit-in movement that began at the store's lunch counter.

Less than two blocks away, modern civil rights warriors gathered over coffee and muffins to share their plan for healing wounds still fresh from the day 25 years ago when members of the Ku Klux Klan entered a black neighborhood and set off a gunfight that left five people dead and 10 wounded.

This central North Carolina city of about 230,000 is in many ways quite typical. But in recent years, Greensboro has been set apart by its push to remember and reconcile its sometimes-tortured racial history.

The effort to lay to rest simmering disagreements about the Klan shootings of Nov. 13, 1979, is one of the city's newest campaigns — and one that is not universal or popular.

Some don't see the point in reliving the day when a caravan of neo-Nazis and Klan members drove into the Morningside Homes public housing community and opened fire at a "Death to the Klan" march organized by Communists.

The Greensboro Truth and Reconciliation Commission plans to study and dissect the shootings and, hopefully, open a path toward resolution.

Creation of the commission last year marked the first time any group in the United States has tried to use the voluntary format, which seeks to bring participants in past controversies together in a nonjudicial setting to uncover the truth.

"There's a lot of hurt feelings out there in the community still after 25 years," said retired lawyer Robert Peters, one of seven

people appointed to the commission. "We believe a lot can be learned from truth in history."

Mayor Keith Holliday, who is white, and other city boosters have publicly denounced the work of the commission as unnecessary and potentially divisive.

Most of the people involved in the shootings didn't live in Greensboro, Holliday said.

"There's not an overarching tension that exists," Holliday said. "I think it unfairly sort of accentuates Greensboro's role as sort of a Dodge City where people get shot on the street."

The campaign to convert the downtown Woolworth's building into an International Civil Rights Center and Museum has proved more palatable to community leaders.

Organizers had hoped to open the \$10 million museum this past week, on the 45th anniversary of the first sit-in on Feb. 1, 1960.

But a water leak caused thousands of dollars in damage and delayed completion until at least July.

The museum will give special attention to the day when four freshmen from historically black North Carolina A&T State University sat at the store's whites-only lunch counter and requested service. They were turned down, but people across the city and the nation picked up their cause. Thirty-one students appeared the next day and within weeks the sit-in movement spread across the Jim Crow South.

A year later, 126 cities had integrated their eateries.

Mark George, a visiting sociology lecturer at Georgia State University who worked on anti-racism projects in Greensboro from 1996 to 1998, said he can't explain why the city has been a lightning rod for racial tension.

"I think it's like many communities," George said. "It sees itself as loving ... but



A pedestrian makes his way last week past The International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro, N.C. The center is located in the F.W. Woolworth building, where in 1960 four freshmen from historically black North Carolina A&T State University sat at the store's whites-only lunch counter and requested service. Greensboro has been set apart by its push to remember and reconcile its sometimes-tortured racial history.

regardless, when we start talking about power, resources, people's stuff kind of comes out, even though they're not using the n-word.

"Everybody knows what not to say, but when it comes to institutions being fair and equitable, we're not as nice anymore."

The efforts to discuss race and racism stem from the city's attempt to reinvent itself amid the decline of traditional manufacturing industries like furniture and textiles, Holliday said.

But in a city where nearly 40 percent of the population is black, skepticism remains strong.

Two of the six black separatist groups active within North Carolina in 2003 were in Greensboro, according to Hatewatch, a project of the Montgomery, Ala.-based Southern Poverty Law Center.

At the other end of the racial spectrum, the National Socialist Movement, a neo-Nazi party, also has a chapter in the city.

"Without the friction, we really wouldn't have the activism," said Multha Jost, an assistant education professor at North Carolina A&T who is serving on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Another commission member is bothered by the segregation that still exists in Greensboro, four decades after the apparent triumph of the civil rights movement.

"As I move forward in my life I have been stunned that there are people on both sides of Market Street — that is the line of demarcation — that have never been on the other side of the line," said Barbara Walker, who has lived in Greensboro since 1942. "They have a fear of each other, underlying very deep. Why should we be so afraid of each other?"

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Hilary Swank, nominated for best actress for her role in "Million Dollar Baby," is introduced by Virginia Madsen, center, nominated for best supporting actress for her role in "Sideways," to Madsen's mother, Elaine, as they arrive at the Oscar nominees luncheon Monday in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Oscar nominees: Camaraderie outshines the competitive edge

BY DAVID GERMAIN

The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Some are old hands at Hollywood's big night, where they have come away triumphant. Some are veterans who have gone home empty-handed year after year. Others are brand new to the party.

About 115 nominees came together Monday for a lunch honoring contenders at the 77th Academy Awards. All said breaking bread together brings a spirit of camaraderie rather than competition.

Four-time nominee Kate Winslet, a best-actress contender for this year for the offbeat romance "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind," said the group met as friends, not Oscar rivals.

"It doesn't feel competitive. It really doesn't," Winslet said. "It's like you're all going through this thing together, and it's just so kind of exciting and mysterious and strange and glorious. And you're all sort of in the bubble together."

Dual nominee Jamie Foxx, the

best-actor front-runner for the title role in the Ray Charles tale "Ray," said though he's been busy making acceptance speeches for the Golden Globes, Screen Actors Guild Awards and other film honors, he hasn't run out of steam.

"There are so many things that I want to say, I could never run out of things," said Foxx, also nominated as supporting actor for the hitman thriller "Collateral." "Like I've always said to my friends, even when we dreamt of what I want to be, we never dreamt this."

One of the big questions for Feb. 27 is whether Martin Scorsese finally will come away with the best-director prize after four previous losses. The man who made such modern classics as "Raging Bull" and "GoodFellas" said maybe it was better to lose earlier in his career.

"It would be wonderful to win. I think," said Scorsese, nominated for the Howard Hughes epic "The Aviator," which leads the field with 11 nominations and is

in a two-horse race with best picture with the boxing drama "Million Dollar Baby." "It probably is better I didn't win in the '70s or mid '80s or something."

Winning then, Scorsese said, is something "maybe I was not able to handle at the time."

Scorsese is going against director Clint Eastwood, whose "Million Dollar Baby" star Hilary Swank also finds herself in a two-woman contest for best actress against Annette Bening, nominated for the theater farce "Being Julia."

Five years ago, Bening was the best-actress favorite for "American Beauty," but relative unknown Swank pulled an upset win for "Boys Don't Cry." At the Oscar lunch, someone asked Bening if the rematch against Swank was an instance of "cosmic humor."

"Cosmic humor, that's a great way of putting it. It's just a fun coincidence. She's a great actress and she's great in the picture," Bening said. "It's just one of those coincidences, and it's a good story, I guess."

N.I.T. radio station still reeling from tsunami parody

BY LARRY MCSHANE

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The music swelled, sounding the familiar first notes of the vintage charity hit "We Are the World." Then the lyrics kicked in — a torrent of bad taste, ethnic slurs and cruel insults about the killer South Asia tsunami.

The "parody," aired during the morning on New York City radio's WQHT-FM, lasted three minutes. Nearly three weeks later, the self-proclaimed "premier hip-hop station in America" is still reeling. One of its morning co-hosts was fired, the show's producer was dumped and five other employees remain suspended.

The "USA for Indonesia" song offended not only tens of thousands of listeners but advertisers like McDonald's.

"It's a mess," said Tom Taylor, editor of the trade publication Inside Radio. It's taken on a life of its own. Clearly, this has touched a nerve.

Asian-American and Muslim groups were among those infuriated by the song, which mocked victims of the tsunami. Estimates of the overall death toll from 11 tsunami-hit nations ranged Monday from about 152,000 to 178,000.

In the days after the song was played on Jan. 18, executives at both the station, which calls itself Hot 97, and parent company Emmis Radio did not immediately return phone calls for comment.

The anger only grew. By the middle of the following week, the station suspended its entire morning show staff, announcing their salaries would go to tsunami relief.

The move failed to appease the protesters.

The station amped up its response: Morning show producer Rick Del Gado, who once worked with shock jocks Opie and Anthony, was dismissed along with show co-host Todd Lynn.

"What happened is morally and socially indefensible," said an apology issued by Rick Cummings, president of Emmis Radio.

Still, that was not enough for some. Several New York City Council members called for a donation of \$10 million — a week's worth of corporate revenue.

"This should serve as a lesson to people who profit from hate that it's going to cost you, and it's going to cost you dearly," said council member Letitia James.

And then came word that an Asian member of the morning show, Minya Oho, known to listeners as Miss Info, was considering a lawsuit against the station for an alleged "hostile work environment" that predated its tasteless parody.

"I don't want to litigate the case in any article," said lawyer Kenneth Thompson, a former federal prosecutor. "I just want to tell you it went beyond the tsunami shit."

Emmis lawyer Gary Kaseff said the company was unaware of any specific complaints by Oho about her two years at the station. Oho, who complained about the tsunami bit on the air, was not suspended but has yet to return to the station.

"We would absolutely like her back with Hot 97," said Kaseff. "We have been contacted by her lawyer, but he has not made any specific demands at all."

For more than a decade, Hot 97 has reigned as one of New York's leading radio stations, particularly appealing to the teen audience with its rap-and-R&B format.

Store owner sets out to reclaim meaning of red string

BY DAN NEPHIN

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The owner of a Judaica store wants to educate people about the significance behind a strand of red string worn around the wrist that's linked with Kabbalah, or Jewish mysticism.

The string, also known as a bendel, has been increasing in popularity in recent years and has been seen on the wrists of Madonna, Demi Moore and Lindsay Lohan.

But Shlomo Perelman worries an article of faith is being transformed into hollow fashion.

"It's been co-opted by Hollywood types and it's been adopted by mass-market, New Age people who aren't aware of its significance," he said. "It's not being linked at all to Judaism."

"It's been co-opted by Hollywood types and it's been adopted by mass-market, New Age people who aren't aware of its significance."

Shlomo Perelman
Judaica store owner

The string's meaning for Jews is based on its connection to Rachel, one of Judaism's four matriarchs, according to Perelman.

For centuries, Jews have tied on their

wrists red string that's been wrapped around Rachel's tomb in the West Bank.

Though some people believe the string can relieve pain and protect from the evil eye, Perelman said its importance lies in connecting Jews with Rachel.

"We want to connect with great people and Rachel was a great Jewish person," said Perelman, who owns Finkler's Judaica Center in Pittsburgh and founded Internet retailer Judaism.com.

Perelman has spent about \$10,000 producing a video about the red string.

The video, which runs about seven minutes, can be seen free at judaism.com and is included with the purchase of the string he sells two plain strings for \$10 and string and silver bracelet for \$25.

Kabbalah's followers believe that by studying Jewish texts and achieving a more

intimate relationship with God, they can understand the hidden meaning of the Torah and can call on God to alter nature on their behalf.

In the Middle Ages, Kabbalah was passed on to Jewish men over 40 who were deemed to have maturity and pristine spirituality to handle mysticism's power. In recent years, Kabbalah centers have been opening throughout the United States, teaching a hybrid version with no restrictions on age, gender or religion. Orthodox Jews dismiss the trend as a fraud.

Arthur Green, a professor of Jewish mysticism and theory at Hebrew College in Newton, Mass., and professor of Jewish thought at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass., calls selling red string "all nonsense" and "a rip-off."

"It's commercialization of people's psychological weaknesses. I'm opposed to it at any level," Green said.

FACES

Operation Make 'em Laugh

Former Marine who served in Desert Storm tours Iraq to entertain troops

BY LISA FERGUSON

Las Vegas Sun

Most comics will likely never experience the sort of bombing that James P. Connolly has endured in his career.

A former Marine Corps officer, Connolly was in Kuwait during the early 1990s, serving in Operation Desert Storm. More than a decade had passed when he returned to the region last fall, as part of the "Comics on Duty World Tour," to entertain U.S. troops fighting in Iraq.

"It was like going back and reliving a part of my life that I never thought I'd get to relive," he said. "It felt like the Marine Corps, and it felt like wartime, but nobody asked me to do anything remotely manly or testosterone-driven."

His orders this time around were to boost soldiers' morale.

"Everyone was talking about when they were due to rotate home, and they just wanted to talk to you. ... It was more of a human thing than a war-torn thing," Connolly said. "What we got to experience was everyone taking a break from the war scenario to spend some time with us and laugh, and that's just like going into a comedy club when people take a break from their lives."

As part of the "bare-boots tour," Connolly and his fellow comedians — who slept in tents alongside the troops and used outdoor latrines — staged shows throughout Iraq, including in the embattled cities of Najaf and Fallujah.

"The thing about Fallujah was that everywhere in Iraq, people would say, 'As long as you don't go to Fallujah'."

— a group of Army soldiers among them, he recalls: "They asked, 'Where are you off to next?' and we said, 'Well, we're headed to Fallujah,' and (from) these 250 soldiers, this collective sigh went, 'Oh.' " Despite others' concerns about the comics' safety, Connolly insists he wasn't worried.

"I always tell them, 'First of all, I'm very confident that we'll be protected by our armed men and women of the United States government.' And, I said, 'Secondly, I carry something in my pocket that the Marine Corps gave me years ago (to use) in just such a crisis: It's a copy of my dis-

charge papers.' " Meanwhile, two Marines were assigned to serve as the performers' security detachment throughout Iraq.

year and a half — really appreciate the new boots now," he recalls. "So, I had them in my closet for like a decade and I never used them."

Connolly — who was stationed at California's Camp Pendleton while serving from 1988 through 1992 — credits the military for helping him uncover his comedic talents.

"I think I'm the only comedian whose career started with a direct order from his colonel," he boasts, explaining how he penned some one-liners the colonel used to riff on other officers during a roast event.

Upon retiring from the Marines, the Harvard grad started a short-lived career as a DJ/karaoke host in San Diego before relocating 10 years ago to Los Angeles, where he took a comedy class and hit the open-mike circuit with an act built on his hipster persona.

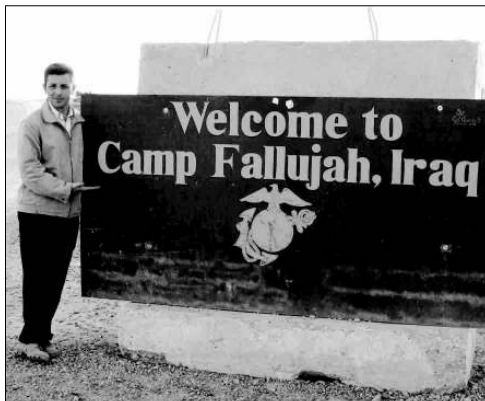
"I talk about the one thing I know better than anything else: me," he jokes.

Having been a finalist at several comedy festivals around the country, in 2002 he was crowned Grand Champion on "Next Big Star," a TV talent show hosted by Ed McMahon.

He also hosted the VH1 game show "Movie Obsessions," and recorded a CD, "Pure Polyester," in 2004.

"Most people that know me as a comedian have no clue that I was in the Marine Corps," he says. "People that were in the Marine Corps might be shocked to find out that I ended up being a stand-up comic."

As for the prospects of making a return trip to Iraq to entertain the troops again, Connolly says, "Let's put it this way, it will be very hard to say no."



Photos courtesy of James P. Connolly

Left: Connolly stands in front of the sign for Camp Fallujah, Iraq, during his "Comics on Duty World Tour." **Above:** Connolly uses one-liners and personal experience to get laughs during his routines.

Reigning 'Idol' defends her song

Reigning American Idol Fantasia Barrino said one song on her new CD, "Free Yourself," is dedicated to young mothers who struggle to support themselves and their children — just as she does.

Her "Baby Mama" track has elicited some criticism as endorsing children out of wedlock, but Barrino, 20, said she isn't promoting teenage motherhood.

Barrino has a 3-year-old daughter named Zion. She said she isn't ashamed of being a teenage mother, but "if I could have waited, I would have."

She will be a co-host of the Soul Train Awards on Feb. 28, and she is nominated for an NAACP Image Award as outstanding female artist.

Hemingway's sensitive manuscript

The macho hunter image of Ernest Hemingway is replaced by a picture of the author as a confident and happy man in one of his last manuscripts, to be published this fall.

Written while Hemingway was on safari in Kenya from

late 1953 to early 1954, "Under Kilimanjaro" is lighter and more comedic than the author's other work, said coeditor Robert Lewis, a Hemingway scholar at the University of North Dakota.

"Without this book, I think people would tend to stereotype Hemingway as they have in the past, as the macho man, the man of blood sports. ... That man is completely absent from this book," Lewis said.

Schlessinger, famous for doling out conservative advice on her nationally syndicated call-in show, told about 300 people at a 425th Civil Affairs Battalion event on Saturday that she wasn't too worried about her son,

Dr. Laura's son joins Special Forces

Tough talking radio host Dr. Laura Schlessinger's 19-year-old son will join the U.S. Special Forces later this year — an endeavor that could take him to Iraq.

Schlessinger, famous for doling out conservative advice on her nationally syndicated call-in show, told about 300 people at a 425th Civil Affairs Battalion event on Saturday that she wasn't too worried about her son, Deryk Bishop.

"I brought my son up to be a warrior," she said from Santa Barbara, Calif. "I feel sorry for the mothers of

the bad guys. And I just have a good feeling."

Bishop, who enlisted last year, joined his mother on stage and told the audience including U.S. Army reservists that he resents how Americans criticize the war without recognizing the sacrifices soldiers make.

Spike Lee: Find a career you love

Filmmaker Spike Lee told a crowd of college students that they should try to find a career that will make them happy, not necessarily one that will make them rich.

"Hopefully, you'll be able to find a career path that you love and be able to make a living out of that," Lee told about 1,000 Miami University students in Oxford, Ohio.

He urged students to use their college years to discover what they would enjoy doing during their lives.

"You do not want to be sitting 20 years from now when you dread waking up in the morning to go to a job that you hate," Lee said.

Lee's credits include "School Daze," "Do the Right Thing," "Jungle Fever," and "Malcolm X."

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Barrino



Schlessinger



Lee

THURSDAY EVENING / FEBRUARY 10, 2005

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P	•ESPN Pacific Report	Two and a Half Men Airing After they started. (CC)	Will It or Cray? Will play hard to get. (CC)	Desperate Housewives' Come In, Stranger! A break-on in Wisteria lane leaves everyone feeling vulnerable. (CC)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 'No More Blood' Two gamblers are found dead. (CC)	Pacific Report	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno (CC)	Late Show With David Letterman (CC)			
7	AFN-ATL	(5:46) Gyrax Wintry (CC)	(3:5) Guiding Light (CC)	(17) General Hospital (CC)	Headline News	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)				Legend of Tarzan (CC)	Asah! Real Monsters (CC)
8	NEWS	Hardball With Chris Matthews	The O'Reilly Factor (CC)		60 Minutes (CC)		Fox and Friends		Fox and Friends		American Morning	
9	SPORTS	•Soccer 2006 World Cup Qualifier - England & Togo vs. United States	•SportsCenter		•College Basketball Teams to be Announced. (Taped)		•SportsCenter				•College Basketball North Carolina at Duke	
10	SPEC	The Simpsons Everybody Loves Raymond Ray loses his mind	American Idol (CC)		The Practice "Burnoff" A man seeks advice on behalf of his accused wife; a woman's baby is late.	Frontline (CC)	Friends Monica battles for a wedding dress. (CC)	Seinfeld Kramer helps friend flee the home. (CC)	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart (CC)	Blind Date (CC)		
11	AFN-FLA	Homebodies (CC)	Rugrats (CC)	That's So Raven	All That (CC)	7th Heaven "The Long Bad Summer"	Sabrina-Witch	Sabrina-Witch	The Cozy Show	Home Improvement	Touched by an Angel (CC)	
12	AFN-MO	Ever-Movies	Ent. Tonight	*** "Forest Guard" (1994, Comedy)	Drama) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Gary Sinise.	*** "Coyote Ugly" (2000, Drama) Piper Perabo, Adam Garcia.						*** "Tremors" (1990, Horror)
14	TMC	(1:15) • "The Matchmaker" (1999, Comedy) Janeane Garofalo, David O'Hara, Mike O'Shea. A cynical American girl puts Irish matchmakers to the test. R		*** "The Road to Wellville" (1994, Comedy) Anthony Hopkins, Bridget Fonda, Matthew Broderick. A turn-of-the-century doctor practices unusual medicine. R			*** "Cops and Robbers" (1994, Comedy) Chevy Chase, Jack Palance, Dianne Wiest. Charlie had a stroke! R				*** "Deviant Women" #1 (2002) Jane Fonda	
24	PBS	Dragon Tales Round Zound of my egg. (E) (CC)	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N) (CC)		The New Old House Hour plant material; trees, barn insulation; wallpaper. (CC)	Antiques Roadshow "Omaha" Omaha, Neb. science-powered tractors; super-heater. (CC)			One, Jack Palance, Dianne Wiest. Charlie had a stroke! R			
25	SHOW	*** "Rocky V" (1990, Drama) Sylvester Stallone, Talia Shire, Bart Young. The former champion agrees to train a rising young fighter. PG-13 (CC)	American Justice "Payback for a Bully" Friends lure a student to a remote area and kill him. (CC)		*** "Starship Troopers" (1997, Science-Fiction) Casper Van Dien, Dina Meyer, Denise Richards. Young soldiers battle a vicious army of gigantic bugs. R (CC)							
27	A&E	City Confidential The city of Boston learns the shocking truth behind a murder and a hit film. (CC)			Cold Case Files "Mark of Cain: Death on the Freeway. One night on the Bayou. Buckeye MI A Florida man vanishes. (CC)				The First 48 Probing the slaying of a store worker documented on video in the shelter. (CC)	Crossing Jordan "Ties That Bind" Jordan thinks a dismembered torso is that of a slain corrections officer. (CC)	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
28	DISC	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
29	TF	Game Ka Na Ba? Star Circle Quest	Heal-a-Like Mo Kays (In Tagalog)		(d5) Insider	Kumusta Kabayan			Morning Star	(4:4) Mib, Ang Saye Says		
30	CNN-I	Lo Dobs Tonight	CNN Daybreak				American Morning (CC)					
31	GOLF	(5:00) Golf New Zealand Open - First Round. (Same-Day Tape)			•Tiger Woods Mix: 11th Annual	•Pebble Beach Pro-Am Highlights	Inside the PGA Tour	•What's the Bug?	•Golf Central		Golf New Zealand Open - First Round	
32	TLC	Jump London (CC)	Sports Disasters: Danger Zone (CC)		Overhaul! "Lucky Star" Reinventing a 1991 Ford Explorer. (CC)	Jump London (CC)	Sports Disasters: Danger Zone (CC)				In a Fix "Living Breathing Room" Darlings in a fix. Almost cost the life and future wife. (CC)	
34	TOON	Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	The Courageous Cowardly Dog	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	Justice League	Teen Titans	Cartoon Cartoon Cartoon shorts.	Samurai Jack	He-Man and the Masters of the Universe	What's New Scooby-Doo?	Mucha Lucha
35	ANPL	Pet Star Circle-dancing animal; reading dog; banny bird.	Animal Kops Houston "Horse Quarantine" Sickly horses bring a killer disease to the shelter. (CC)	The Planet's Funniest Animals (CC)		Pet Star Circle-dancing animal; reading dog; banny bird.	Animal Kops Houston "Horse Quarantine" Sickly horses bring a killer disease to the shelter. (CC)				The Most Extreme "Defenders" Turtles shell; hot grease; glue. (CC)	
36	COM	Crank Yanks! Ed goes back to school	South Park The boys get to go to school in the states. (CC)	Drawn Together Shorties Denz	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Shorties Denz	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Drawn Together Shorties Denz	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Innocent With Dave Attell	Innocent With Dave Attell
40	NGC-A	Mummy Road-show	Tales of the Living Dead	Sneak Wranglers	Croc Chronicles	Build for the Kill	The Last Mander	Killer Tigrers of the	To Be Announced		Frontlines of Construction	
42	SPIKE	MXC	MXC	Hey! Spring of Trivia (N)	MXC	MXC	World's Wildest Police Videos (CC)		Blind Date (CC)	Shrimates	Maximum Exposure Eizeme, lightning and twisted events.	
43	FOX	That 70s Show	That 70s Show	The Simpsons	Seinfeld	The O.C. "The Accipitor" Zach and Seth start a comic book based on their lives in the Newcompton. (N) (CC)	Point Pleasant Christina continues to suffer the effects of her visions of death and destruction. (CC)	News	The Simpsons	Seinfeld	Seinfeld George and Jerry return to the city. (CC)	
44	BET	College Under (Season Premiere)	Soul Food "See and Money" Kenny's soul food comes with a lot of love. (CC)	Soul Food "See and Money" Kenny's soul food comes with a lot of love. (CC)	BET Nightly News 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Top 10 countdown.	The Exonerated" (2005, Documental) Susan Sarandon, Brian Dennehy, Premiere. Innocent death-row inmates endure a harrowing ordeal.	The Chronicle: News From the Edge	Outback Jack				
46	COURT	NYPD Blue "Season 6" Spinoff grows concerned on Sorensen's relationship with stripper Kristen. (CC)	Star News Focus Asia	Friends (CC)	American Idol (CC)							
48	STRWLD	"Midrow on the Hill" (2005, Drama) Natasha Henstridge, James Belkin, Jewel Station. A woman accuses a nurse of murdering her wealthy father. (CC)	The Nanny "Neta's Letta" (CC)	The Golden Girls "Blanche poses nude for a statue. (CC)	The Nanny "The Productions" (CC)	The Golden Girls "Dorothy's church is dinked. (CC)	The Division The search for a kidnapped teenage girl takes an unexpected twist. (CC)	Suddenly Susan Susan lies to her parents. (CC)	Paul Program			
51	ABC/FAM	(5:00) *** "Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery" (1997) Mike Myers, Elizabeth Hurley	Whore Line is it anywer? "Super heroes" (CC)	Whore Line is it anywer? "Super heroes" (CC)	The 700 Club (CC)	America's Funnest Home Videos "Birthdays. (CC)	America's Funnest Home Videos "Dog steals food. (CC)	Paul Program	Paul Program	The 700 Club (CC)		
53	HIST	(K-10) The Plot to Kill Nelson (CC)	Infamous Murders Presidential assassinations. (CC)	Modern Marvels "Harvesting" Custom machines harvest crops. (CC)	Modern Marvels "Earth Moves: The Power to Move Mountains" Shows mining and construction equipment.	The Plot to Kill Nelson (CC)	Infamous Murders Presidential assassinations. (CC)	Infamous Murders Presidential assassinations. (CC)	Infamous Murders Presidential assassinations. (CC)	Modern Marvels "Harvesting" Custom machines harvest crops. (CC)		
54	STRWLD	(5:30) *** "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" (2002, Comedy) Nia Vardalos, John Corbett.	(14) *** "Sweet Home Alabama" (2002, Comedy) Reese Witherspoon, Josh Lucas, Patrick Dempsey. A New York fashion designer has a secret in the South.			*** "Johnny English" (2003, Comedy) Rowan Atkinson, Hugh Grant, Natalie Imbruglia. A bungling agent tries to recover stolen jewels. (CC)	*** "Joe Dirt" (2001, Comedy) David Spade, Brittany Daniel, Dennis Miller. A muddled-headed janitor relives his personal tale of woe. (CC)					
58	ADV I	To Be Announced	Game for It	Total Adventure (CC)	Adventure Challenge	Different Ball Game	Adventure Planet	Game for It	To Be Announced		Next Wave	Total Adventure
59	MTV	Real World - Road Rules Challenge (CC)	Real World - Road Rules Challenge (CC)	Made "BMX Race" BMX racing (N) (CC)	The Ashlee Simpson Show	The Ashlee Simpson Show Ashlee's 12 released.	My Super Sweet 16	My Super Sweet 16	True Life "I'm an identical Twin" Being a twin.	Room Raiders	Room Raiders	Room Raiders
60	NICK	As My Life as a Teenage Robot	Rugrats Ducking hatches. (CC)	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd-Parents Fairly Odd-Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants April Fool's Day (CC)	Nick News Special Edition	Full House "Baby Lou" Michelle de la Cruz tells J.J.'s teacher. (CC)	Murphy Brown Clips from classic series. (CC)	Murphy Brown Clips from classic series. (CC)	Murphy Brown Clips from classic series. (CC)	Murphy Brown "Fry" gang boys. (CC)

JAPAN TV

Morning
6:45 Between the Lions (3)
7:30 Disney (12)
10:25 Korean Drama: SangDoo! Let's Go To School O.S.T. (4)

Afternoon
1:30 U.S. Movie (1988): The Bourne Identity (2:00/2 of 2/12)
5:50 News (6)

Evening
7:00 News (1)
9:00 U.S. Movie (2002): Extreme Ops (2:00/12)
10:00 News (1)
1:35 Football CX: Serie A/Premier/Liga Digest (8)
1:59 NFL Club (4)
2:29 Code Name: ETERNITY (4)

JAPAN TV-RS7

8:15 News Today: World
9:15 Economic News
10:10 BS Documentary
11:15 2005 World Alpine Skiing Championships: Women's Downhill (r)
12:10 2006 FIFA World Cup Soccer Asian Preliminary: Bahrain vs. Iran
2:15 Asian News
3:35 World Amazing Sports
4:15 Asian News
5:10 World News Hour

JAPAN TV-BS11

Morning
9:50 Aerobics
10:00 Classical Music: Berliner
Barock Solisten (r)
Afternoon

2:35 Railway Adventure Across U.S.A.
3:00 U.S. Movie (1972): The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean (2:02)
Evening
7:00 NHK News
7:50 U.S. Movie (1988): Shakespeare in Love (2:10)
12:15 U.S. Movie (1983): Witness (1:55)
WOWOW

WOWOW

Morning
7:30 Oswald No. 32
10:10 U.S. Movie (2001): Angel Eyes (1:47)
Afternoon
12:00 TV Series: Third Watch
3:10 U.S. Movie (2002): Slone (1:50)

5:30 Oswald No. 32
Evening
7:35 U.S. Movie (1996): Jerry Maguire (2:20)
1:00 U.S. Movie (1979): Norma Rae (2:00)
3:00 French Movie (2001): Ma Femme Est Une Actrice (1:40)
4:40 Pro Boxing: WBA Superlightweight Championship — Alexander Munoz vs. Martin Castillo (r)

MTV

Morning
6:00 Wake Up!
7:00 M Size Wednesday
8:00 Top Choice
10:00 Pure Music
11:00 Top Choice

Afternoon
12:00 Live: Manic Street Preachers
12:30 Live: The Roots and Friends
1:00 Cribs
1:30 Winter Style in Kandatsu
2:00 Pure Music
3:00 Top Choice
5:00 Sounds Chart Top 10

Evening
6:00 M Size Thursday
7:00 YATAI
8:00 Pimp My Ride
8:30 America or Busted
9:00 I-Catch
9:30 Top Choice
10:00 Pimp My Ride
10:30 Consensus: Gay
11:00 Screen
11:30 Pure Music
12:00 U.S. Top 20 with Super Dry
2:00 M Size Thursday
3:00 Fresh
3:30 After_Hours

Junk food in school

KY FRANKFORT — A House committee approved legislation to get rid of junk food and reduce soft drink consumption in Kentucky schools. Potato chips and candy bars would be removed from school vending machines if the measure becomes law, while soft drinks would be off limits for elementary school students. Older students could have soft drinks but also would be offered water, fruit juices and milk as healthy alternatives.

Bad blueberry year

ME BANGOR — Maine's 2004 blueberry harvest was the state's first in more than a decade. Growers harvested 46 million pounds last year, the smallest crop since 1991, according to the New England Agricultural Statistics Service. The poor showing is blamed on last year's cold winter and berry disease brought on by a wet spring.

Cell phones in prison

AR LITTLE ROCK — Arkansas legislators are considering a plan to keep cell phones out of state and local prisons. Corrections officials see the spread of cell phones as a threat to security. The bill would make it a felony to give a cell phone to anyone serving time or being held pending trial.

Same name dispute

NC LILLINGTON — Retired Judge Robert B. Morgan often gets mistaken for a former U.S. senator with the same name. But he still thinks he should get to keep \$18,000 sent to the wrong man.

Harnett County officials mailed an \$18,042 check to the retired judge in April 2003. Now, they want the money back because it was supposed to go to former Sen. Robert B. Morgan.

Judge Morgan, 89, said he doesn't believe he should have to return the money. "It's been two years. I spent it and paid taxes on it," he said.

"They made the mistake, I didn't. If I make a mistake, I don't expect anyone else to pay for it," the judge said.

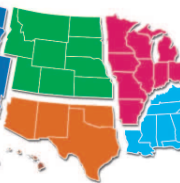
The \$18,000 was for a sewer line easement through the senator's property. Judge Morgan, who said the check had his own address, thought the money was for a water line easement on his property.

Homemade bombs go off

KS WICHITA — A 17-year-old student has been charged with making homemade bombs that exploded outside the homes of two teachers.

Authorities believe Marcus Curran also set off explosives outside the homes of a school secretary and on a high school football field. No one was hurt in the blasts.

Curran was arrested at Nickerson High School in south-central Kansas and taken to a juvenile detention center on five counts of arson and two counts of attempted arson. A hearing was scheduled to determine if he is charged as a ju-



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

venile or adult.

Five of the bombs exploded, two were found unexploded in mailboxes and three others were dupe, Reno County Sheriff Randy Henderson said.

The five devices that exploded were powerful enough to destroy mailboxes, and one shattered the windshield of a car owned by one of the teachers, the sheriff said.

Officials reported the first explosion Jan. 16.

Reed to run for office

GA ATLANTA — Ralph Reed, former Christian Coalition director and President Bush's southeast regional chairman in 2004, filed paperwork allowing him to make a bid for lieutenant governor next year.

Candidates cannot accept money for campaigns until they have registered a committee, which Reed did in his filing.

From 1989 to 1997, Reed was executive director of the Christian Coalition, the organization formed by evangelist Pat Robertson. He was credited with being the major force behind the organization's fund-raising success.

Reed, 43, headed the Georgia Republican Party from 2002 to 2003, a period in which Republicans elected their first governor since Reconstruction and took control of the state Senate. The party also now controls the state House of Representatives.

The lieutenant governor's office



Break in a circle

Geology graduate student **Giovanni Romero** takes a break from his work and talks on a cell phone in front of **Brand Hall** at **New Mexico State University** in **Las Cruces, N.M.**

likely will be vacant in 2006.

The incumbent, Democrat Mark Taylor, is expected to challenge Gov. Sonny Perdue.

Street shooting

NY NEW YORK — A woman and her fiancé were gunned down on a busy Manhattan street in a brazen shooting that investigators believe was committed by the woman's ex-husband, who then turned the gun on himself.

Inessa Ivanov, 39, was killed and John Turco, 56, was critically wounded in the shooting at Madison Avenue and 57th Street, police said. The area is known for its posh shopping, including nearby stores Hermes, Burberry and Chanel.

Vadim Ivanov, 43, the alleged gunman, was found nearby, mortally wounded with a pistol in his lap and binoculars police believe were used to track the victims, police said.

Home eviction death

NC WINSTON-SALEM — A man who lost his home in a foreclosure sale was convicted of killing his home's new owner as he was about to be evicted.

Bobby Leon Griffin, 60, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole after he was convicted of murder and other charges.

Frank Lama, who bought the foreclosed house, wanted Griffin to stay in it as a tenant and sign a lease. Witnesses testified that Griffin missed an appointment to sign a rental agreement, stopped receiving phone calls and did not make any rent payments.

In June 2003, months after the home changed hands, Lama went there with a Forsyth County Sheriff's deputy to evict Griffin. That's when Lama shot Griffin.

Man's trial date set

NY SYRACUSE — A man accused of killing his girlfriend in 1990 and keeping her decomposing body in a rented storage facility for 14 years will go on trial in April.

Onondaga County Judge Anthony Aloisi set an April 4 trial date for accused killer George Geddes Jr. after ruling Geddes' admissions to police could be used as evidence.

Geddes, 53, of Syracuse, was arrested April 1 after police found the wrapped, decomposed body of his former girlfriend, Margaret "Peggy" Reome. The body of the mother of three was discovered in a trunk inside a unit at a self-storage facility in the Syracuse suburb of Clay. An autopsy determined she died from severe trauma to the head.

Cable work completed

CT HARTFORD — The Cross Sound Cable Co. completed work to rebury sections of its cable along the Long Island Sound seabed.

The 330-megawatt cable between Connecticut and Long Island, N.Y., was activated in June, but power was shut off for several months while the company worked to rebury sections that did not meet the depth requirements.



Monster boot breaks record A worker walks in front of a giant leather boot at Red Wing Shoes in Red Wing, Minn. Using ladders, cranes and special rigging, company employees and retirees have built a supersized "638-D" replica of the company's classic work boot No. 877. The boot stands 16 feet tall and is 20 feet long. The shoelace is 104 feet long. The Guinness Book of Records recognized the boot as the world's largest shoe.



Lion baiting Toby Lee, 6, of De Pere, Wis., sticks his tongue out during a "Lion Dance" at a Chinese New Year Celebration inside Rose Hall at University of Wisconsin-Green Bay.



It's a toss up From left, Nicholas Flair, Cindy Marvell and Carter Brown perform a scene from "Lazer Vaudeville," which begins preview performances Feb. 16 at off-Broadway's John Houseman Theater in New York. The show opens March 9.



Flowers in the sand Amet Prasad, left, and others place flowers in the sand to honor the victims of Alaska Airlines flight 261 during a fifth anniversary memorial of the crash in Port Hueneme, Calif. Prasad lost his brother, Anjesh Prasad, and cousins Avenesh Deo and Amit Deo.



Snow snooze Christine Donahoe, a freshman at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, rests while enjoying the 40 degree temperatures on the UW campus.

Herring worries

CA SAN FRANCISCO — Scientists are worried about the health of the San Francisco Bay's herring population. Fishermen also have found it increasingly difficult to earn a living in the bay's last significant commercial fishery, but argue the herring population is healthy and state restrictions are the cause of their woes.

"Many fishermen have already quit," said Ernie Koepf, 53, a commercial fisherman who heads the California Herring Association.

State biologists cite a number of reasons for so few herring being landed this season, including fewer boats, smaller spawnings and undersized fish that are off limits. They say they are hopeful more schools will come to the bay during the remainder of the season.

Ski instructor dies

VT RICHMOND — Virginia Doris Cochran, who taught more than 10,000 children to ski, has died. She was 76. Cochran started the Cochran Ski Area in Richmond with her husband, Mickey, in 1961, and taught there for more than 40 years. Daughter Barbara Ann won the Olympic gold medal in slalom in Sapporo, Japan, in 1972 and daughter Marilyn was the first American to win a World Cup in the giant slalom in 1969.

Hold the salt

FL TAMPA — Tampa Bay Water says it's ready to crank up its troubled desalination plant again. The plant will run through spring as experts search for undetected problems, then go off-line until late next year for \$29 million in repairs. The main problem is that salt filters clog too quickly. The pioneering plant has been idle for a year except for producing water one week each month to maintain the machinery.

Checking IDs

WI MILWAUKEE — A new policy requires cashiers at Roundy's grocery stores to check the identification of everyone buying cigarettes or alcohol, whether they look 21 or 91. The company says it started its "We Card Because We Care" program to prevent underage drinking and tobacco use and help local law enforcement. Roundy's owns 77 stores in Wisconsin, nearly all of which are Pick 'N Save or Cops.

Tax amnesty program

CA SACRAMENTO — Industry groups are pushing to scale back a tax amnesty program designed to raise millions of dollars in unpaid taxes from Californians who cheated on their returns.

Corporations and anti-tax groups worry the two-month amnesty, which ends March 31, could impose steep penalties on taxpayers who have legitimate reasons not to participate. Tax officials estimate the program could raise \$280 million in new revenues and another \$300 million in future taxes.

DNA case backlog

IL SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois State Police said its backlog of criminal DNA cases was nearly wiped clean last year.

Extra funding to hire more scientists

helped the state crime lab cut its DNA backlog from more than 1,100 cases to 153 cases at the end of 2004.

Sex offender neighbor

AR SPRINGDALE — A developer who claims sales in a subdivision stopped because of a sex offender and his wife bought a home has sued the couple and the real estate company that arranged the purchase.

NGT Rental filed the \$2 million lawsuit against Randall Dee Collins and his wife, as well as the real estate company that arranged their new home purchase.

Randall Collins, 39, was convicted of molesting young girls and is listed on the Arkansas Crime Information Center Web site.

According to the lawsuit, his wife hired a real estate company to sell her old home, saying she had married a sex offender and that her home was too close to a school.

A day after the couple bought a home in a new subdivision, the police department distributed fliers detailing Collins' case.

The lawsuit alleges Collins called the developer and offered to move for \$250,000, "for he would stay there and kill their subdivision."

Cleaning the river

OR SALEM — Some legislators and Gov. Ted Kulongoski are launching a campaign to clean up the Willamette River. For years, the 187-mile river has benefited farms and cities alike. But heavy use and population growth have polluted the river with heavy metals, pesticides, waste and chlorinated water. The governor has called for cleaning an abandoned mine that leaches mercury into the river.

Steroids in school

TX DALLAS — Texas high school students searching for athletic fame or a chiseled physique are easily obtaining and using steroids, and many coaches are looking the other way, according to a four-month investigation by The Dallas Morning News. Some coaches conceded that the lack of testing programs and legal concerns meant they hesitated to confront an athlete or confide in a parent.

Woman attacked twice

VT BRATTLEBORO — A man was ordered held without bail after he was charged with assaulting a woman twice in less than six hours.

Torren Boyd, 23, of Brattleboro allegedly assaulted the woman shortly before 11 p.m. on Thursday and then again shortly before 5 a.m. the next day, according to the Brattleboro Police Department.

Boyd was first arrested at 11 p.m. Thursday, according to police, and charged with first-degree aggravated domestic assault and violation of his conditions of release on a previous unrelated charge.

A few hours later, the alleged victim told police that Boyd had assaulted her again.

When Boyd was arrested on the Friday morning and charged with his second violation of conditions of release, he was found to have 25.5 grams of crack cocaine on him, police said.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

The Pisces moon is a balm on the forehead of this fast-paced week. So much new energy has come into the mix that we need time to assimilate. Pisces lunar energy is introspective and we need, reminding us that we didn't get snagged in the minutiae or seduced by the details. All we are learning will fall into its proper place.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(February 10). A greater sense of belonging and connection to your fellow man is yours. March brings exciting new developments in your social life. Changing something about your work situation in May leads to interesting friends, and through one of them, you may even find romance, right when you thought you weren't in the mood.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Communication and community are key. Why not plan a party for the folks on your block? Get to know the people you casually wave hello to on the street. Use this opportunity to bury the hatchet with a neighbor.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). If you've lately found yourself being stonewalled when it comes to signing a document of paramount importance to your career, the situation should lighten up considerably. Power players are in a more agreeable mood.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Watch for an invitation to travel with friends. This offer could come through your schoolmates or a social group—even your church! It's an excellent opportunity for spiritual growth. Expand your world and your mind.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). A corporate entity with money to burn is eager to finance your latest project! Watch for subtle opportunities. Be sure to buy a lottery ticket. Call your business partners, and stir the pot a bit. See what bubbles up.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Reconnect with friends if you've been lying low recently due to your incredibly hectic and exciting life. Invitations and announcements are met with

joy all around. Don't be surprised if you're flooded with visitors bearing gifts of love.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Presentations and meetings of all sorts go smoothly. You come out looking knowledgeable and approachable, picking up new clients or even a date! Regarding work, Toss it, file it, or deal with it, but don't let it pile up.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Lucky you! Many opportunities for fun and love present themselves. Say yes to any sort of group outing, and you're sure to have a creatively inspiring and enlightening time. What better way to beat the winter doldrums?

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Now that the holidays are behind you, family tensions dissipate. Yes, you may actually find yourself once again liking those crazy people to whom you're related. Make time for laziness around the house together.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Is there a concert, movie or museum exhibit you've been dying to see? Unchain yourself from your desk for a day! Get out there into the thick of things, and commune with your fellow humans. Work can wait; life can't.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). An unexpected phone call could bring outstanding financial news! Knowing how hard you drive yourself, this is most likely work-related, though it could also be through an investment or a friend. Take a bow.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Everything just seems a little bit easier. People are more accessible. The wheels of innovation and productivity spin a little faster. People seem to get you. You're in the zone. Enjoy this time with someone special.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're in the midst of a huge spiritual growth spurt, becoming the person you've always wanted to be. Your values are changing, and so is your social circle. Acquaintances come and go; true friends are forever.

Holiday Mathis



SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Now that the holidays are behind you, family tensions dissipate. Yes, you may actually find yourself once again liking those crazy people to whom you're related. Make time for laziness around the house together.

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Creators Syndicate

Calvin and Hobbes



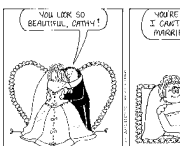
Jump Start



Zits



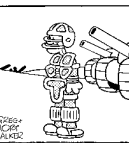
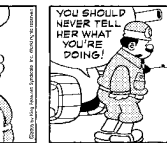
Cathy



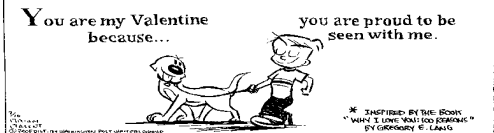
Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



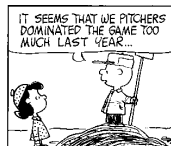
Red and Rover



Better or Worse



Peanuts



You are my Valentine because...

you are proud to be seen with me.



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



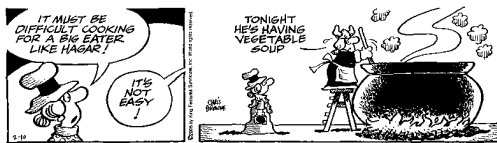
Blondie



Dilbert



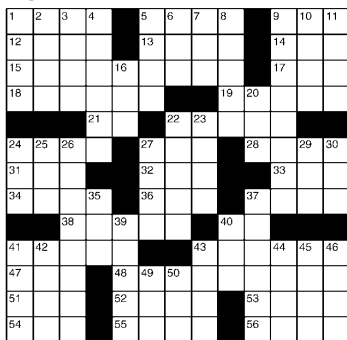
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



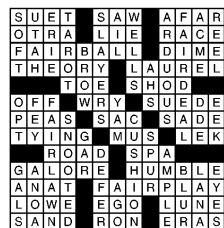
Across

- 1 Weaving apparatus
5 Infatuated
9 Milne's "Mr. — Passes By"
12 Lotion additive
13 Rhone city
14 Cold War faction (Abbr.)
15 Runt
17 Apiece
18 Play — (to pretend)
19 Rubber source
21 Root, cuminings
22 Colander
24 Uppercase
27 Likely
28 Tackles' teammates
31 ID datum
32 Miler Sebastian
33 Father's Day gift
34 Maximally
36 PTA member
37 Cellar, in want ads (Abbr.)
38 Alternate
40 Continent (Abbr.)
41 Shopping center
43 Dash
47 Have something wrong
48 Baseball: Little League :: football: —
51 Western st.
52 1998 Andrea Bocelli album
53 Neutral shade

Down

- 54 Take a whack at
55 Fast time
56 Put on cargo
22 Thread holder
23 Thing
24 Heathcliff, e.g.
25 Past
26 Pre-game morale booster
27 Pinnacle
28 Poorly lit
30 Collection
35 "— who?" (Sl.)
37 Keg
39 Relating to the pope
40 Health farm
41 Treaty
42 Fabulist
43 Bat a gnat
44 Erstwhile
45 Peruvian
46 Dweeb
48 Authentic
49 Galena, e.g.
50 Brooch

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-10

CRYPTOQUIP

J I U L F U G B F N L W T Z
N U G N Z T G F G S X U I Z I F X X F G S
B J G Z X M J X R W V V Z R "S U G Z
M F L E L E Z M F G R U M."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A SCRAWNY PUPPY IS BORN IN A STEELWORKS, I RECKON HE MUST BE RUNT-OF-THE-MILL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals S

Other woman should know truth

Dear Abby: My boyfriend of 2½ years, "Neil," broke up with me last August. At the time, I couldn't understand why he suddenly changed so drastically. Early in our relationship he had been accepting of my two children, and toward the end he became distant and cold to them. Then he told me he didn't want to raise another man's children and wasn't interested in being a mentor to a teenage boy.

Neil was also angry that I refused to end my relationship with my best friend, who happens to be a gay man. Neil said there is no place in society for gays, and he didn't want a gay person calling his house.

Neil works for a company that he has always had an interest in owning. Last spring, the owner died suddenly and left shares of the business to his widow, "Nancy," and their children. Neil told me he intended to borrow money from his family and buy

out the youngest son's interest — but his family didn't have the money to loan. About a month after that, in the midst of complaining to me about his financial woes, Neil commented, "Maybe I'll get me a rich older woman to take care of me... someone like Nancy."

Dear Abby



Over the next few months, I saw him less and less. Little did I know Neil had already manipulated a relationship with her.

Abby, Nancy is a very nice, classy person. I like the woman. I went to her home for her husband's wake. Should I tell Nancy what Neil is up to, that he's a conniving loser?

I'm afraid if I do, she won't believe me. Neil can be very sweet when he wants to be, and I'm sure she hasn't glimpsed his hateful, controlling side. His only real love is money and power.

My motive is not spite. I don't want Neil back, so I want my boyfriend who is everything Neil

could never be. I just feel Nancy should know what's ahead. She has a gay teenage son. I'm sure when Neil gets what he wants, that boy's life will be hell.

So, you tell me: Should I talk to Nancy and risk looking like sour grapes, or let her find out what a lowlife, gold-digging scumbag Neil is for herself?

—Tom in San Diego
Dear Tom: Ordinarily, I would tell you to stay out of it. However, because of Nancy's son, I'm reversing myself.

Make a date with Nancy (if she'll see you), and without calling names, tell her about Neil's longtime interest in buying into her business, his cash-flow problem and his homophobia. If she has a legal adviser, I'm sure that person will discuss with her the advisability of a prenuptial agreement should she decide to remarry. And your conscience will be clear.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69410, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.ueexpress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YUMMG

TAYFF

TOOCE

TORTOG

Print answer here:

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's

Jumbles: SNARL BOWER LAXITY EXOTIC

Answer: What an expensive meal can cost — A LOT OF CALORIES

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argison



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's

Jumbles: SNARL BOWER LAXITY EXOTIC

Answer: What an expensive meal can cost — A LOT OF CALORIES

Boyfriend needs to know priorities

Dear Annie: I faithfully read your column every day, and I need your help. I have been dating a wonderful guy for about a year and a half. "George" and I talked about getting married and having a family. Everything was terrific until a few months ago.

George informed me that a female friend of his needed a place to stay, and he offered to let her move in with him. He admitted that he once had dated this girl, and she still has feelings for him. This girl has a reputation for being very sleazy and often plays the helpless victim in order to attract people.

I told George I was NOT OK with her living with him, and we left it at that. Two days ago, I found she has moved into his house.

George claims nothing has or will happen, that they're just friends and that I'm overreacting.

I am sick to my stomach and feel betrayed that someone I

Annie's Mailbox



trust and love so much is ready to live with a sleazy girl like that. To make matters worse, George always mentions how great this girl gets along with his mother. I feel like the other woman here. I don't want to end this relationship, but I don't see how I can continue seeing this man.

—The Real Other Woman

Dear Other Woman: It's time to clear things up with George. A man who is truly committed to you does not offer to share his living space with an ex-girlfriend, especially after you've asked him not to. It shows a disregard for your feelings and a willingness to be tempted.

Tell George if the ex needs a place to live, he should help her find accommodations somewhere else, but if he insists on putting her needs above yours, he is not the man for you.

Dear Annie: I am 14 years

old, and I have a big problem. My mother is a serious alcoholic. I've talked to my father about it, and we have tried interventions with extended family and friends, but she will not quit.

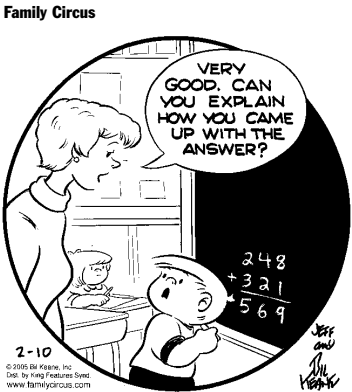
Mom is unemployed, and I think she has an emotional disorder, because she has no interests and spends her time walking our dog all day and complaining about it. I believe this is rubbing off on me, as I am prone to moodiness.

I need your help.

No Name, No State
Dear No Name: Until your mother is ready to make changes, your efforts may not work. You need to concentrate on yourself right now. Please look into Alateen, an organization for teenage relatives and friends of alcoholics. The web site is alateen-alanon.org, or you can call 1-888-4-ALANON (1-888-422-6666).

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the fan letters column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.comcast.net, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

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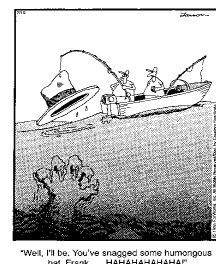
"No, I think it was just Divine intervention."



Dennis the Menace



© Gary Larson



Non Sequitur



"THE FRONT-RUNNER FOR TWO YEARS' NICE TRY AWARD"

Grasping the reins of life

Despite blindness, teen sees a future in barrel racing

BY DAVID CASTEVENS

Knight Ridder Newspapers

FORT WORTH, Texas — The horse knows the girl's voice.

He knows her touch and the loving way she lays her cheek against his neck and feeds him treats from the palm of her small hand.

Some say that seeing is believing.

But one doesn't have to see to believe.

Fourteen-year-old Brittney Holland believes in her well-trained horse and in her skills and experience as a rodeo performer.

The ninth-grade honor student from Aledo High School also believes what Susan Holland, her mother, has told her since she was 3. When Brittney asked if she would ever be able to see Hayley, her older sister, her mother told her no.

"Britt, you're going to do greater things being blind than you ever would if you had total vision," Susan Holland said.

When Brittney was 2 months old, Susan and Greg Holland took her, their youngest child, to a pediatric ophthalmologist in nearby Fort Worth. The doctor examined the infant's teardrop-shaped pupils and explained that the backs of her eyes had not developed.

Susan Holland didn't understand.

"Are you telling me she needs glasses?"

"Read my lips," the specialist said. "Your child is blind and will never see."

After the doctor walked out the door, the grieving mother sat in the exam room, cradling her baby. She thought about her pregnancy and wondered if somehow she was to blame.

During the next year, Susan Holland experienced her own visual impairment, myopia. She couldn't see her daughter's future. "I was blind, too."

The Hollands took Brittney to four other doctors. Each offered the same prognosis.

Susan Holland quit her job to help her daughter find her way in a darkened world. The family prayed. Their faith sustained them.

Over time, Brittney experienced what her mother calls a miracle.

The baby began to "see" from her left eye. She could make out faint, blurred images — sort of like peering through a straw — and discern a contrast of colors.

Her mother taped pink paper to the bottom of the door frames to help the crawling infant navigate through the home.

Susan Holland completed as a barrel racer for 20 years. Both her daughters grew up around horses. Brittney wanted to ride because her older sister did, and at age 4, Susan Holland fitted her younger daughter with a safety helmet and put her on a horse, alone.

A year later, the girl participated in her first barrel race, sitting atop a gentle, plodding horse named Doc.

Brittney wanted to ride faster and become competitive. When she was 8, her mother — also her

coach — developed a communication system using walkie-talkies. Brittney wears the device clipped to her rhinestone-studded Western belt. She hears her mother's voice through an earpiece.

Susan Holland tells her when to loosen the reins.

"Let him go!"

When Brittney approaches a barrel — which she cannot see — the mother signals for her to turn by saying "Here!"

If the instruction comes prematurely, the horse may strike the barrel and knock it over, incurring a penalty. Too late, and the wide turn costs Brittney seconds of precious time.

At 80 pounds, Brittney is no burden for the 1,300-pound animal beneath her. She has tumbled from the saddle in practice, but to

her that's no big deal. In life, we all fall. The trick to living is getting up.

Legally blind, Brittney can make out only two letters at a time in her large-print school books. To watch TV, she must sit so close that her nose almost touches the screen.

But she can see, far better than many others can.

She sees her future.

Going to college on a rodeo scholarship.

Studying medicine.

Becoming a veterinarian's assistant.

"Good barrel!" her mother says in her ear.

The girl feels the horse's strength and power.

The speed of the final sprint.

"Nice run. ... Good run, Britt!"



KRT

Brittney Holland, 14, practices barrel racing on Tee, her 13-year-old horse, last month in Rendon, Texas. Legally blind since birth, Holland relies on commands from her mother to guide Tee through the course.

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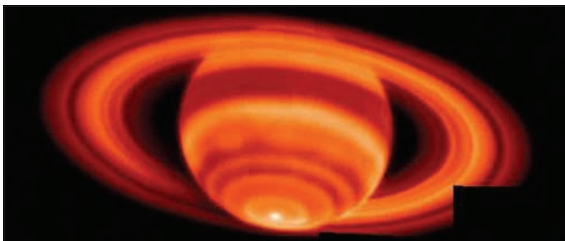
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A mosaic of 35 individual infrared exposures made in February, 2004, at the W.M. Keck I Observatory in Mauna Kea, Hawaii, shows what scientists say are the sharpest views of Saturn's temperature emissions ever taken from the ground. The prominent hot spot at the bottom of the image is right at Saturn's south pole. A small section of the ring image is missing because of incomplete mosaic coverage during the observing sequence.

NASA/AP



Scientists discover 'hot spot' on Saturn

Area is only known warm polar vortex

BY JAYMES SONG

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Astronomers using a giant telescope atop a volcano have discovered a hot spot at the tip of Saturn's south pole.

The infrared images captured by the Keck I telescope at the W.M. Keck Observatory atop Mauna Kea on the Big Island suggest a warm polar vortex — a large-scale weather pattern likened to a jet stream on Earth that occurs in the upper atmosphere. It's the first such hot vortex ever discovered in the solar system.

The team of scientists say the images are the sharpest thermal views of Saturn ever taken from the ground. Their work will be published in Friday's editions of the journal Science.

This warm polar cap is believed to contain the highest temperatures on Saturn, the scientists did not give a temperature estimate.

On Earth, the Arctic Polar Vortex is typically located over eastern North America in Canada and plunges cold arctic air to the northern Plains in the United States.

Polar vortices are found on Earth, Jupiter, Mars and Venus, and are colder than their surroundings. The new images from the Keck Observatory show the first evidence of a polar vortex at much warmer temperatures.

"Saturn's is the first hot polar vortex that we've seen because it's been sitting in the sunlight for about 18 years," said Glenn S. Orton, a scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., and lead author.

Saturn, which takes many earth years to orbit the sun, just had its summer solstice in 2002.

"If the increased southern temperatures are solely the result of seasonality, then the temperature should increase gradually with increasing latitude, but it doesn't," Orton said.

"A really hot thing within a couple degrees of the pole is something I don't understand at all," he said.

Scientists may learn more from the data coming from the infrared spectrometer on the Cassini spacecraft currently orbiting Saturn, information that is expected to complement the Keck discovery, Orton said.

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The Pacific Forecast

AccuWeather.com

Forecasts and graphics, provided
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Tide Table

	Today	High Tide	Tomorrow
Mainland Japan	6:39 a.m.	6:39 p.m.	6:23 p.m.
Yokosuka	9:55 a.m.	9:35 p.m.	10:17 p.m.
Sasebo			
Korea			
Chung Island/Sogwipo	12:30 p.m.	none	12:23 a.m.
Kusan	4:36 a.m.	5:06 p.m.	5:20 a.m.
Quinswa, Naha	8:37 a.m.	8:14 p.m.	8:10 a.m.
Guam, Apra Harbor	9:28 a.m.	8:16 p.m.	10:00 a.m.
			9:12 p.m.
Mainland Japan			
Yokosuka	11:59 a.m.	none	12:26 a.m.
Sasebo	3:22 a.m.	3:50 p.m.	4:01 a.m.
Korea			4:27 a.m.
Chung Island/Sogwipo	7:15 a.m.	8:04 p.m.	8:02 a.m.
Kusan	11:14 a.m.	11:51 p.m.	11:57 a.m.
Quinswa, Naha	2:10 a.m.	2:20 p.m.	2:48 a.m.
Guam, Apra Harbor	2:34 a.m.	3:02 p.m.	3:18 a.m.
			3:51 p.m.

* For tides at other sites, apply minutes below to Naha tides:
 Sakai, Ono Wan: -39, Sasebo Bay: +11 high and low tide.
 Uten: Ku: -7 high, -8 low, Yonabaru, Buckner Bay: -44 high, -42 low.

SEATTLE
 Today 25/8
 Cold with a brisk wind

SEUL
 Today 25/8
 Cold with a brisk wind

Friday 25/10
 Mostly sunny; cold

SHANGHAI
 Today 37/31
 Cold with some snow

Friday 43/29
 Mostly cloudy; cold

North Korea

South Korea

Japan

NORTHERN JAPAN
 Today 26/14
 Snow with heavy bursts; cold

Friday 23/14
 Cold and snowy

TOKYO
 Today 52/31
 Early showers, then sunshiny

Friday 41/29
 Sunny and chilly

SOUTHERN JAPAN
 Today 47/31
 Blistery, cooler; clouds and sun

Friday 45/31
 Chilly, partly sunny

Burma

BANGKOK
 Today 86/60
 Sweltering

Friday 86/60
 Heat wave persists

Laos

HONG KONG
 Today 69/54
 Mostly cloudy

Friday 69/54
 Cooler; some clouds

Thailand

Cambodia

Vietnam

MANILA
 Today 85/70
 Clouds and sun

Friday 87/72
 Partly sunny

Philippines

GUAM
 Today 83/73
 Breezy; brief showers

Friday 83/73
 Breezy; brief showers; sun

Malaysia

SINGAPORE
 Today 89/77
 Sun, clouds, a storm

Friday 89/77
 Infor-mis-torms

Malaysia

Borneo

KWALEJALEIN
 Today 87/78
 Partly sunny

Friday 84/76
 Shower possibility

As of 7 a.m. Wednesday, Tokyo time

Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
Saturday: Partly sunny,
high 39, low 29.
Sunday: Periods of clouds and
sunshine,
high 44, low 35

KADENA
Saturday: Rain,
high 66, low 60.
Sunday: Periods of clouds and
sunshine,
high 70, low 50

SEOUL
Saturday: Periods of clouds and
sunshine,
high 28, low 16.
Sunday: Partly sunny,
high 36, low 23.

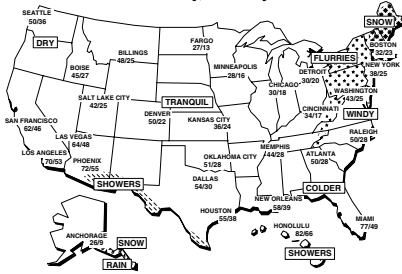
MANILA
Saturday: Partly sunny,
high 87, low 72.
Sunday: Periods of clouds and
sunshine,
high 87, low 72

HAGATNA
Saturday: Periods of clouds and
sunshine, high 85, low 73.
Sunday: Periods of clouds and
sunshine,
high 85, low 73.

Tuesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	53/27	Los Angeles	66/48	SEATTLE	50/36
Amarillo	54/26	Little Rock	59/43	DRY	
Anchorage	52/28	Louisville	58/43		
Annapolis	66/42	Miami	78/62		
Baltimore	59/40	Milwaukee	30/22		
Birmingham	63/53	Nashville	64/47		
Bismarck	42/25	New York	63/42		
Boise	43/25	Omaha	17/11		
Boston	47/36	Orlando	77/65	SAN FRANCISCO	60/46
Brownsville	83/68	Philadelphia	62/38		
Buffalo	42/28	Phoenix	69/48		
Burlington	40/29	Pittsburgh	49/38		
Charleston, SC	72/49	Portland, OR	51/31	LOS ANGELES	70/53
Charlotte	68/50	Portland, ME	43/31		
Chattanooga	43/24	Salt Lake City	36/18		
Columbus, OH	48/37	St. Louis	38/29		
Duluth	17/6	San Antonio	64/58		
El Paso	62/38	San Diego	65/51		
El Paso	48/33	San Jose	80/68		
Helena	37/14	Tampa	79/56		
Indianapolis	46/33	Tulsa	42/26		
Jacksonville	76/50	Washington, DC	63/44		
Kansas City	29/16	Wichita	30/19		

Thursday, February 10



U.S. Extended Forecast

Perhaps the biggest story over the next several days will be a storm system that will impact the mid-Atlantic and New England coasts Thursday. This storm will intensify and likely produce several inches of fresh snow from central New England south into the mid-Atlantic. Depending upon how close this storm is to the coast, the snow may extend well into the Appalachians as well. Following this storm on Thursday, the East will be generally dry but cold. Meanwhile, the West will feature quiet weather for Thursday. However, Pacific moisture will rapidly invade the southern Rockies and Desert Southwest Thursday night into Friday.

Thursday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY
Bangkok	96/80	Iwakuni	4/628	Sasebo
Beijing	131/3	Kadena AB	6/58	Sapporo
Camp Casey	24/6	Kunsan AB	30/18	Seoul
Christchurch	83/60	Kwajalein	87/78	Shanghai
Diego Garcia	88/78	Manila	85/70	Singapore
Hagatna	83/73	Misawa AB	35/16	Sydney
Hanoi	75/58	Osan	27/9	Taegu
Hong Kong	69/54	Perth	86/63	Taipei
Honolulu	82/66	Pusan	39/21	Tokyo

Thursday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW	CITY	HIGHLOW
Acapulco	90/73	Budapest	36/30	Kabul	39/20	Nairobi	86/55
Athens	45/36	Buenos Aires	79/59	Kiev	26/18	New Delhi	65/41
Auckland	77/63	Cairo	59/43	Kuwait	54/31	Oslo	36/24
Baghdad	46/24	Cancun	81/66	London	52/48	Paris	45/43
Barbados	87/77	Cape Town	54/42	Madrid	32/24	Porto of Janeiro	77/69
Barcelona	53/33	Geneva	43/32	Mexico City	73/48	Rome	50/31
Berlin	39/29	Istanbul	33/24	Montreal	23/13	St. Petersburg	27/19
Bermuda	70/58	Jerusalem	41/32	Mogadishu	92/78	Stockholm	43/29
Bombay	89/73	Shanghai	32/24	Phnom Penh	32/22	Tokyo	32/22



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SCOREBOARD

AFN TV & radio

Thursday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—College basketball: Illinois at Michigan (radio).

AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.—NBA: Denver at Minnesota at Louisville.

AFN-Atlanta, 11 a.m.—College basketball: North Carolina at Duke.

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—Soccer: Team USA at Trinidad & Tobago (radio).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—College basketball: Tennessee at Mississippi State.

AFN-Sports, 11 p.m.—College basketball: North Carolina at Duke (radio).

Friday

AFN-Sports, 2 a.m.—College basketball: Indiana at North Carolina.

AFN-Sports, 5 a.m.—Golf: PGA Beetle Beach National Am. first round.

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—College basketball: North Carolina State at Wake Forest (radio).

AFN-Sports, 10 a.m.—NBA: LA Lakers at Detroit.

AFN-Atlanta, 11 a.m.—College basketball: Xavier, Ohio at Cincinnati.

AFN-Sports, 1230 p.m.—NBA: Sacramento at Seattle.

AFN-Sports, 5 p.m.—College basketball: North Carolina State at Wake Forest (radio).

AFN-Sports, 8 p.m.—College basketball: Gonzaga at Pepperdine (radio).

All times are Japan and Korea Standard Time. For complete schedule and listings are subject to change. Visit www.afn.net for more information.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25 poll

The top 25 teams in the Associated Press men's college basketball poll, with wins and losses, are listed below. The poll is based on a 25-point scale, with 25 points for a win and 1 point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking.

	Record	AP	Points
1. Illinois (72)	19-2	1,711	1,711
2. North Carolina	19-2	1,711	1,711
3. Duke	19-2	1,711	1,711
4. Boston College	19-2	1,711	1,711
5. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
6. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
7. Syracuse	19-2	1,711	1,711
8. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
9. Oklahoma State	19-2	1,711	1,711
10. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
11. Arizona	19-2	1,711	1,711
12. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
13. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
14. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
15. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
16. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
17. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
18. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
19. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
20. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
21. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
22. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
23. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
24. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
25. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711

USA Today/ESPN Top 25 poll

The top 25 teams in the USA Today-ESPN men's college basketball poll, with wins and losses, are listed below. The poll is based on a 25-point scale, with 25 points for a win and 1 point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking.

	Record	AP	Points
1. Illinois (73)	19-2	1,711	1,711
2. North Carolina	19-2	1,711	1,711
3. Duke	19-2	1,711	1,711
4. Boston College	19-2	1,711	1,711
5. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
6. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
7. Syracuse	19-2	1,711	1,711
8. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
9. Oklahoma State	19-2	1,711	1,711
10. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
11. Arizona	19-2	1,711	1,711
12. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
13. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
14. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
15. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
16. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
17. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
18. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
19. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
20. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
21. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
22. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
23. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
24. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711
25. Wake Forest	19-2	1,711	1,711

Other receiving votes: Wake Forest 48; Florida 46; Charlotte 45; Virginia 44; Wake Forest 43; Wake Forest 42; Wake Forest 41; Wake Forest 40; Wake Forest 39; Wake Forest 38; Wake Forest 37; Wake Forest 36; Wake Forest 35; Wake Forest 34; Wake Forest 33; Wake Forest 32; Wake Forest 31; Wake Forest 30; Wake Forest 29; Wake Forest 28; Wake Forest 27; Wake Forest 26; Wake Forest 25; Wake Forest 24; Wake Forest 23; Wake Forest 22; Wake Forest 21; Wake Forest 20; Wake Forest 19; Wake Forest 18; Wake Forest 17; Wake Forest 16; Wake Forest 15; Wake Forest 14; Wake Forest 13; Wake Forest 12; Wake Forest 11; Wake Forest 10; Wake Forest 9; Wake Forest 8; Wake Forest 7; Wake Forest 6; Wake Forest 5; Wake Forest 4; Wake Forest 3; Wake Forest 2; Wake Forest 1.

Other receiving votes: Wake Forest 48; Florida 46; Charlotte 45; Virginia 44; Wake Forest 43; Wake Forest 42; Wake Forest 41; Wake Forest 40; Wake Forest 39; Wake Forest 38; Wake Forest 37; Wake Forest 36; Wake Forest 35; Wake Forest 34; Wake Forest 33; Wake Forest 32; Wake Forest 31; Wake Forest 30; Wake Forest 29; Wake Forest 28; Wake Forest 27; Wake Forest 26; Wake Forest 25; Wake Forest 24; Wake Forest 23; Wake Forest 22; Wake Forest 21; Wake Forest 20; Wake Forest 19; Wake Forest 18; Wake Forest 17; Wake Forest 16; Wake Forest 15; Wake Forest 14; Wake Forest 13; Wake Forest 12; Wake Forest 11; Wake Forest 10; Wake Forest 9; Wake Forest 8; Wake Forest 7; Wake Forest 6; Wake Forest 5; Wake Forest 4; Wake Forest 3; Wake Forest 2; Wake Forest 1.

Men's Top 25 schedule

Tuesday's Games

No. 1 Illinois at Michigan

No. 3 Boston College at Notre Dame

No. 4 Kentucky at Florida

No. 10 Pittsburgh vs. St. John's

No. 23 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 2 North Carolina at No. 7 Duke

No. 9 Louisville vs. Memphis

No. 10 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 17 Alabama at Tennessee

No. 20 Wisconsin vs. Baylor

No. 25 Texas Tech vs. Baylor

No. 5 Wake Forest vs. North Carolina State

No. 1 Washington at Oregon State

No. 12 Arizona at Southern California

Friday's games

No. 1 Illinois at Michigan

No. 3 Boston College at Notre Dame

No. 4 Kentucky at Florida

No. 10 Pittsburgh vs. St. John's

No. 23 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 2 North Carolina at No. 7 Duke

No. 9 Louisville vs. Memphis

No. 10 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 17 Alabama at Tennessee

No. 20 Wisconsin vs. Baylor

No. 25 Texas Tech vs. Baylor

No. 5 Wake Forest vs. North Carolina State

No. 1 Washington at Oregon State

No. 12 Arizona at Southern California

No. 13 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 14 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 15 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 16 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 17 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 18 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 19 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 20 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

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No. 22 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

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No. 24 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

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No. 32 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 33 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 34 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 35 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 36 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 37 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 38 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 39 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 40 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 41 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 42 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 8, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking.

	Record	AP	Points
1. Florida Atlantic (72)	22-2	1,036	1,036
2. Ohio State	22-2	1,036	1,036
3. Stanford	22-2	1,036	1,036
4. Stanford	22-2	1,036	1,036
5. Notre Dame	22-2	1,036	1,036
6. Notre Dame	22-2	1,036	1,036
7. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
8. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
9. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
10. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
11. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
12. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
13. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
14. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
15. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
16. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
17. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
18. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
19. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
20. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
21. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
22. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
23. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
24. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036
25. North Carolina	22-2	1,036	1,036

Friday's games

No. 13 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

Tuesday's games

No. 10 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 11 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 12 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 13 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 14 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 15 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 16 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 17 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 18 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 19 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 20 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 21 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 22 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 23 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 24 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 25 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 26 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 27 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 28 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 29 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 30 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 31 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 32 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 33 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 34 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 35 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 36 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 37 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 38 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 39 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 40 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 41 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 42 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 43 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 44 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 45 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 46 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 47 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 48 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 49 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 50 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 51 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 52 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 53 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 54 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 55 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 56 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 57 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 58 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 59 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 60 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 61 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 62 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 63 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 64 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 65 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 66 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 67 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 68 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 69 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 70 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 71 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 72 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 73 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 74 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 75 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 76 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 77 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 78 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 79 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 80 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 81 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 82 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 83 Baylor at Oklahoma

No. 84 Rutgers at Seton Hall

No. 85 Texas Tech at No. 10 Iowa State

No. 86 Wake Forest at Wake Forest

No. 87 Baylor at Oklahoma

HOME TEAM

A WEEKLY LOOK AT LOCAL SPORTS

Wright filling Zama's tall order

Junior transfer gives Trojans a presence in middle

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

In a Japan Basketball League season in which transfers have made a huge difference for their teams, perhaps nobody has had more of an impact than Zama American's Tiffani Wright.

With Wright averaging school records of 23.5 points and 16.3 rebounds per game, the Trojans have gone from last season's also-rans to title contenders.

Their 13-6 overall mark is third-best in Japan; they're second to Yokota with a 9-2 record in the Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools and third in the Japan League with a 4-4 mark. They were 13-14 in 2003-04, 7-9 and in fourth place in Kanto Plain and 7-4 and second in the Japan League.

Wright issued a scary statement—at least for other teams: "They haven't seen the best of me yet," said Wright, who transferred in August from Escambia High in Pensacola, Fla., to Atsugi Naval Air Facility, where her father, Chief Petty Officer Reginald Carr, is assigned.

"We haven't had a game where everybody came to play," she said. "If everybody brings their game, we'll be unstoppable."

The Trojans already are strong thanks to the 6-foot Wright's presence in the middle. She's not overly quick nor an exceptionally high jumper, but Wright is tough to defend or block, gets in good position to score and rebound and hits 75 percent of her foul shots.

More than anything, though, she adds confidence, and a "go-to" option to a team that retained most of last season's roster.

"She's the backbone of the team," said co-coach Veronica Tipton-Jones. "She has the basketball mentality. She's a finisher [something] we lacked last year. We had players with skill, but we didn't have a finisher."

"She's a true leader," said co-coach Parrish Jones, "willing to do whatever it takes when the pressure is on. When she has to



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Zama American junior center Tiffani Wright, left, has averaged 23.5 points and 16.3 rebounds per game in helping her team change last season's 13-14 record to a 13-6 mark this season.

handle the ball, she'll do it. She motivates the team out there. She knows the game, and she loves the game."

Much of that game know-how developed in Pensacola, Wright said. The youngest of four children, she's been playing ball since elementary school.

"My parents played and I liked it," she said. "When I was in Florida, I started to take it seriously."

Seriously enough that at Escambia, Wright started for two seasons on the varsity. She averaged 16 points and nine rebounds as

her school finished third and second in the district.

When this season began, Wright found she blended in well with a team featuring senior guards Eli Legaspi and Kate Shicks.

"They welcomed me right away," Wright said.

"I enjoy this team. We have fun on the bus rides, playing games, drawing faces on coach's and Eli's and Kate's faces when they fall asleep," she said. "We get along off the court. We hang out a lot, go to the movies, have barbe-

cues at coach's house. We keep it like family."

Wright keeps the big numbers coming on the stat sheet. Her 38 points in Zama's 59-29 win Jan. 8 over International School of the Sacred Heart was three short of the Pacific game record set five years ago. She's scored 20 or more points in 11 of 19 games. Her 26 rebounds on Feb. 1, in a rematch with Sacred Heart, set a school record.

"She adds a very aggressive mind-set on the court," Shicks said. "It helps everybody get pumped up."

Wright's opponents, including Yokota coach Ric Cabral, have noticed. Though JBL-leader Yokota beat Zama 71-54 on Jan. 19 at Yokota, Wright scored 24 points and grabbed 17 rebounds.

"She's a legitimate post player," said Cabral, a former three-time All-Air Force player. "She's really strong. She uses her body extremely well. She has a really good touch around the basket, doesn't miss layups, seals off the defender. And she's a good free-throw shooter."

Wright said she hopes to be playing ball long after Zama. She said she's interested in playing for Florida State but "my father wants me to go to Virginia." She's also attended Auburn's summer basketball camp, has been sending out videotapes and keeping newspaper clippings of her games.

"I'm pretty serious about basketball," she said.

Her arrival portends well for a Zama team that figures to challenge for its first title in the Far East Class AA tournament, scheduled Feb. 21-26 at Seoul American. The Trojans haven't reached center court in the tournament since losing to Yokota in 1991.

"We have speed, defense, good passing skills and shooting," Wright said. "We just haven't played like we really can."

Legaspi agreed. "When we're on, we're unstoppable," she said. "If we play to our highest potential, we can reach center court."

E-mail Dave Ornauer at: ornauer@stripes.com

This week's schedule Japan

Boys basketball
Feb. 11: Yokota and Matthew C. Perry at Robert D. Edgar, 4 p.m.; Nite C. Kinrick at Zama American, 10 a.m.
Feb. 12: Yokota and Matthew C. Perry at Robert D. Edgar, 4 p.m.; Nite C. Kinrick at Zama American, 10 a.m.
Feb. 15: Yokota at Zama American; Seisen International at American School in Japan, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 16: Christian Academy in Japan at Nite C. Kinrick, 6 p.m.

Girls basketball
Feb. 11: Yokota and Matthew C. Perry at Robert D. Edgar, 4 p.m.; Nite C. Kinrick at Christian Academy in Japan; Sacred Heart at American School in Japan; Zama American at E.J. King, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 12: Yokota and Matthew C. Perry at Robert D. Edgar, 4 p.m.; Nite C. Kinrick at Christian Academy in Japan; Nite C. Kinrick at American School in Japan; Seisen International at American School in Japan, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 15: Yokota at Zama American; Seisen International at American School in Japan, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 16: Christian Academy in Japan at Nite C. Kinrick, 6 p.m.

Wrestling
Feb. 12: Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools Tournament, St. Mary's International School, Tokyo, 9 a.m.

Korea

Basketball
Feb. 14: International Christian-Jungbu at International Christian, 1:30 p.m.
Feb. 16: Seoul Foreign at Seoul American; Taborian at Seoul American; Seoul International at Seoul International, 3:30 p.m.

Okinawa

Boys basketball
Feb. 11: Kadoma at Japanese high school to be determined; Japanese high school to be determined at Kubasaki, 7 p.m.
Feb. 15: Kadoma at Japanese school to be determined; Kubasaki at Japanese school to be determined, 7 p.m.

Girls basketball
Feb. 11: Kadoma at Japanese high school to be determined; Japanese school to be determined at Kubasaki, 5 p.m.
Feb. 15: Kadoma at Japanese school to be determined; Kubasaki at Japanese school to be determined, 5 p.m.

Wrestling
Feb. 11: Kubasaki at Kadoma, 6 p.m.

Guam

Boys basketball (Feb. 5-30 p.m.)
Feb. 11: Guam High at St. John's
Feb. 12: George Washington vs. Guam High at McCool Elementary/Middle
Feb. 15: John F. Kennedy vs. Guam High at McCool Elementary/Middle

Wrestling
Feb. 12: Father Duane Memorial vs. Simon Sanchez; Southern vs. Simon Sanchez; Guam vs. Southern; Guam vs. John F. Kennedy; Father Duane Memorial vs. John F. Kennedy, 9 a.m. at Simon Sanchez High School, Vieques.

Game of the week

Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools wrestling tournament
When: 9 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 12
Where: St. Mary's International School, Tokyo.

What: A team championship and a winner in each weight class. Also serves as a final tuneup for Department of Defense Dependents' Schools' competition scheduled for Feb. 17-19 at Yokota Air Base.

What: A season-ending invitational tournament. Wrestlers to watch: Tournament includes eight of the 13 all-around champions from last Saturday's Nite C. Kinrick vs. Zama American match. From 2005: In Japan: Patrick Panimanolio of our team's success. (180) 60 Yokota and Kenji Doughty (141) and Yamato Clark (141) of our team's success. to contend for gold medals in Far East.

Scott Tunis

Wrestling
Seoul American High School

Last week: Captured Outstanding Wrestler honors and won the 215-pound title in Saturday's Nite C. Kinrick Invitational "Beast of the Far East" Wrestling Tournament at Yokotee Naval Base, Japan.

Tunis, a senior, helped lead the Falcons to the dual-meet team title in last year's Far East tournament at Yokotee Naval Base, Japan. He completed Saturday for the first time this season after being sidelined by a shoulder injury he suffered during football season.

"That's a huge accomplishment," said Julian Hard-

en, the 13-year head coach of the Falcons, calling Tunis "probably one of the most disciplined, hardworking and self-sacrificing guys I've had the opportunity to work with."

"He does a little bit of everything for us. I use Scott as my example of leader-



Ship. He's got the GPA and the skills to go along with all that."

Lualthi Johnson

Girls basketball
Nile C. Kinrick High School

Last week: Averaged 13 points in three victories to help Kinrick continue its push toward the top of the Japan Basketball League and Kanto Plain Association of Secondary Schools.

Johnson, a junior guard, helped lead Kinrick past American School in Japan 50-28 last Wednesday, followed Friday by a 56-22 victory over Zama American and 49-29 over Seisen International. The Red Devils (17-4 overall) are second in the JBL and tied for second in Kanto. She had 40 points, 11 rebounds and 13

steals in three games.

Coach Henry Falk calls Johnson the "quarterback of the team on the court."

"She makes things happen using her fundamental skills as a ball handler and shooter. She's a very smart player who uses her fundamentals for the advantage of our team's success. She's a very dedicated and hard-working player."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Super: Rematch in big game a real possibility

SUPER, FROM BACK PAGE

"Romeo and Charlie have done a great job. A lot of the success we've had should go to them," coach Bill Belichick said Monday. "I've been with them both a long time. I go back to 1981 with Romeo and I'll miss both of them a lot."

Still, Belichick is a master not only of game-planning but of player procurement. The Patriots have a model for their players: versatile, intelligent, selfless. Belichick and personnel director Scott Pioli find the right guys for their system, and that system produces championships.

"Every time we play, it's a total effort from everyone," said receiver Deion Branch, the Super Bowl MVP with 11 catches for 133 yards. "It's a total organizational effort from the top down."

Unquestionably, Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, San Diego, the Jets and Baltimore all must get better to compete with the New England dynasty. But none of them need to make the quantum leap required of an NFC team to overtake Philly.

So that makes the Eagles the favorite for Super Bowl '06?

Not quite. Not as long as Belichick and Brady and the Patriots are still around.

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From left, New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick, owner Robert Kraft and vice chairman Jonathan Kraft ride in Tuesday's parade.

Annual rite of winter – super parade in Boston

By HOWARD ULMAN

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Three silver Super Bowl trophies and the gray sweat-shirt-wearing mastermind who won them all took a championship parade through the streets of Boston on Tuesday, passing thousands of screaming fans.

Kids skipped school and grown-ups missed work. Confetti flew and players blew kisses to the crowd.

The New England Patriots took another victory ride through town — their third in four years — to give their sign-waving, slogan-chanting supporters a chance to share in Sunday's 24-21 win over the Philadelphia Eagles in Jacksonville, Fla. Boston police estimated the crowd at just under 1 million.

"It's incredible. It seems very surreal, deja vu, man," quarterback Tom Brady said. "You never get sick of the winning. You never get sick of the fans. I tell you, it's a great place to play."

It was a warm winter day, but coach Bill Belichick still wore his gray hooded sweatshirt, a symbol of his fashion sense and coaching focus; he's too busy making his team look good to bother about himself.

Coaches, players and their friends and family members rode along the 1½-mile route in World War II-style amphibious duck boats, usually used to take tourists to historic city sites. The Boston Red Sox used them in their championship "rolling rally" last October but, unlike the baseball team, the Patriots didn't go into the Charles River, which was frozen over.

Belichick was surrounded in the lead vehicle by team owner Robert Kraft, vice chairman Jonathan Kraft and player personnel director Scott Pioli. The executives each clutched a Vince Lombardi trophy and may need help doing it next year.

One fan held up a sign "Next Stop Detroit." That's where the next Super Bowl will be held on Feb. 5, 2006.

"It took me nine years to get my first championship. Now they're coming every year. I

could get used to this," said Troy Brown, who played wide receiver and defensive back and returned punts in the Super Bowl.

The crowd was mostly orderly, although several people were led away from the parade route in handcuffs and police said there were some arrests. There was no mass gathering of fans at City Hall Plaza, where the Patriots addressed them after the past two championships.

Some players flapped their arms, ridiculing the touchdown celebration of Eagles receiver Terrell Owens. Fans stood on snowbanks and trash cans. They threw T-shirts, posters and other memorabilia at players to be autographed and took photos with cell phone cameras.

Some wanted a smile from their dimple-chinned quarterback. He gave it to them along with three raised fingers, signifying each title.

"Take me to the prom," read one sign directed at Brady. His girlfriend, actress Bridget Moynahan, rode on one of the duck boats.

Super Bowl MVP Deion Branch, who rode in the third duck boat with Brady, tried to address the crowd but his microphone appeared to malfunction. He smiled and was cheered just the same by youngsters who roared.

"It's fantastic," said 11-year-old James Casey, wearing a red, white and blue Patriots jacket. "I got to see the Patriots in person. It's awesome."

Plenty of grown-ups acted like kids, roaring for the city's second quarter of the Super Bowl in four months.

"It's exciting," Uri Ahn, 36, of Bedford, N.H., said. "It's something you might not see again. It's history. It's a true new dynasty."

The Patriots have won 32 of their past 34 games, including a 10-0 record in the playoffs, Belichick noted. "When you play coach Vince Lombardi for the best playoff record, 10-1. And no team has won three consecutive Super Bowls, something the Patriots can accomplish next year."

Associated Press writers Jay Lindsay and Matt Pitta contributed to this report.

Crennel officially takes over Browns

The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — Romeo Crennel's long wait is over. An assistant coach for 35 years, he's finally in charge.

Fresh from winning a third Super Bowl title as New England's defensive coordinator, Crennel was introduced Tuesday as coach of the Cleveland Browns, a team with far more imperfections than the one he left.

"I've been somewhat successful as a position coach. Now being able to take the reins of a team and try to run a whole team, that's special," Crennel said during a news conference.

"I'm excited about it. I want to be successful, and I want to win and that's what I want to try to bring to Cleveland, a winning football team."

The 57-year-old Crennel is the 11th full-time coach in Browns history and the team's first black coach. He's the NFL's sixth black coach, but the only one with a Super Bowl ring for each finger of one hand.

Crennel received a five-year, \$11 million contract from the Browns, who are coming off a 4-12 season that was scuttled by major injuries and highlighted by the resignation of Butch Davis on Nov. 30.

In hiring Crennel, the Browns, who are 30-66 with one playoff appearance since returning to the league in 1999, selected an older, more experienced coach instead of going for an up-and-coming college candidate, as they did in 2001 when they plucked Davis from the University of Miami.

Crennel joins Tony Dungy of Indianapolis, Marvin Lewis of Cincinnati, Dennis Green of Arizona, Herman Edwards of the New York Jets and Lovie Smith of Chicago among the league's black head coaches.

Crennel, who began his pro coaching career with the New York Giants in 1981, was passed over for other head coaching jobs.

Last year, he interviewed with several teams, including Buffalo, Oakland and Chicago. The year before, he spoke with San Fran-



Former New England defensive coordinator Romeo Crennel will try to change the fortunes of a team that is 30-66 since returning to the NFL in 1999.

cisco about the job that eventually went to Dennis Erickson.

Innocent plea entered for ex-Raider Robbins

MIAMI — Former Oakland Raiders center Barret Robbins had a written innocent plea entered for him on charges of a attempted felony murder, almost a month after he was shot in a furious struggle with three police officers investigating a burglary call.

The former Pro Bowler was set for arraignment Wednesday.

Miami-Dade jail spokeswoman Janette Hall said Tuesday that Robbins was still in the hospital jail ward, but she was not authorized to give his condition.

The 31-year-old Robbins was shot in the chest Jan. 15 after growling, snarling and laughing at three officers as he beat them up, police reported.

Lined up for prosecutors at 6 feet 4 and 380 pounds, Robbins beat one officer to the floor, picked another one up and slammed him into a wall and rammed the third officer's head into the wall, police said.

Robbins, who suffers from bipolar disorder and alcoholism, was arrested for violating a security guard at a San Francisco nightclub on Christmas Eve. The Raiders cut him last July after testing positive for steroids.

Teammate says McNabb was ill at end of Super Bowl

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Donovan McNabb was so ill in the fourth quarter of the Super Bowl that Philadelphia Eagles teammate called one play in the huddle, center Hank Fraley told a TV station.

"He fought to the end. He gave it everything," Fraley said on Comcast SportsNet in a show aired Monday night. "He could hardly call the plays — that's how exhausted he was trying to give it his all. If you remember back when we were in Jacksonville two years ago and he ended up puking, it was close to that scene. He exhausted everything he had."

Eagles spokesman Derek

Boysko said Tuesday that McNabb wasn't injured during Philadelphia's 24-21 loss to the New England Patriots. However, Boyko said McNabb "could have been feeling sick" — he fought a cold earlier in the week.

McNabb was shaky at times during Sunday's game. He passed for 437 yards and three touchdowns, but he also threw three interceptions. The quarterback misfired on several passes early, held the ball too long at other times, and made several poor decisions.

"He didn't get a play call in one time," Fraley said. "He mumbled and (receiver) Freddie Mitchell yelled out the play we were trying to bring in. He was puking at the same time, trying to hold it in."

Turin's turn



Turin's Mole Antonelliana dome stands out on the Turin, Italy skyline. One year before the 2006 Turin Olympics, worries about the city's readiness to host the Games have subsided.

One year before Olympics, host city is right on track

BY ANDREW DAMPF

The Associated Press

Figure skaters glide across the freshly laid ice at the renovated Palavela arena. Short-track speedskating is a big hit with the locals. Ski and bobsled races come off without a hitch in the surrounding Alps.

One year before the 2006 Winter Olympics, Turin and the Piedmont region of northwestern Italy are getting a taste of the real thing. So far, so good.

Despite continuing budget, sponsorship and housing problems, a series of successful test events has eased concerns over the state of preparations for the Feb. 10-26, 2006, showcase. The first Winter Games in Italy since Cortina d'Ampezzo in 1956.

"I don't want any triumphalism — I'm aware that we still have a lot of work to do," organizing committee chief Valentino Castellani said. "But we don't have delays or emergencies."

A few months ago, Turin's preparations were being compared to Athens' frenzied, last-minute race to get ready for the 2004 Summer Olympics. Now there's a sense of relative calm among local organizers and International Olympic Committee officials.

"I don't think there is any possible comparison between Athens and Turin," said Gilbert Felli, the IOC's executive director for the Olympic Games. "The venue for figure skating is ready. The venues for cross-country, ski jumping and all the Alpine skiing are ready, so there is nothing to compare with Athens. They are on track."

Felli spoke after attending last week's opening of the European



Turin 2006 chief organizer Valentino Castellani, left, and Turin 2006 supervisor Mario Pescante talk at a press conference.

Figure Skating Championships at the 8,250-seat Palavela, featuring an arching cement roof resembling a billowing sail.

Workers were still painting and tinkering with wires days before the event, but completed the job just in time.

The Palavela also hosted the European short-track speedskating championships last month, drawing full crowds for a sport with little following in Italy.

Cross-country ski races took place Jan. 22-23 in Pragelato; bobsled and skeleton events were held Jan. 20-23, and luge events were scheduled for Feb. 5-6 in Cesana Pariol, but were canceled. In December, the World Cup ski circuit made its annual stop in Sestriere, a resort founded by Fiat's Agnelli family that will be the center for Alpine events during the Olympics.

Ice sports will be in downtown Turin and snow events in Sestriere and surrounding villages,

about 62 miles from the city. There will be three Olympic villages — one in Turin for 2,500 athletes and coaches and two more in the mountains for an equal number of competitors. Housing problems remain in the Alpine zone for fans, media and others.

The organizing committee (TOROC) is encouraging the expansion of existing hotels and asking residents to open up their vacation homes for some of the 1.5 million spectators expected during the games.

There also are tentative plans to house some of TOROC's work force in temporary housing.

"We've done a lot of work. (Accommodation) was a very delicate, difficult matter. In our delicacy, it was one of our weakest points," Castellani said.

In November, Castellani — a former left-leaning mayor of Turin — threatened to resign as local Olympics chief in the face of mounting criticism from Italy's right-leaning government and a budget shortfall of \$235 million.

In the end, Castellani stayed on, although he must now work with a government-appointed supervisor, Mario Pescante, a sports and cultural undersecretary who is also an IOC member.

It's been unclear how the two men will share responsibility, but they've avoided any conflict so far.

"My role is president of the organizing committee. The role of Mario Pescante, alongside me on behalf of the government, is to be a special sort of go-between," Castellani said.

"I'm here morning until night, he's here part-time," Castellani said in an interview at TOROC's bustling headquarters in a northern Turin neighborhood.

The budget gap, now reduced to \$196 million, is due mainly to a

lack of support from state-owned companies. But TOROC and the government say the funds should be secured soon.

TOROC's operating budget is around \$1.5 billion. That doesn't count funds spent by the government on infrastructure projects.

"For someone's personal budget, \$196 million is a stratospheric figure, but it's only [a fraction] of the entire games' cost," Castellani said.

IOC president Jacques Rogge met with Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi in November in Rome to press for government assistance in financing and promoting the games.

"At the end of the day, I'm sure the Italian government will do the necessary thing," Felli said.

For decades, Turin was a city dominated by Fiat, with migrant workers from the south filling the automaker's factories. Now, with Fiat fallen on hard times, the population is dwindling and the games are being used to revitalize depressed areas.

In fact, Italy's former industrial capital is being transformed like no other Winter Games host city. The city currently resembles a giant construction site, with cranes dotting the skyline.

A new subway system, high-speed rail links to Paris and Milan and a new central train station are just some of the major works in progress.

Castellani said his city is using Barcelona — the Spanish site of the 1992 Summer Games that turned itself into one of Europe's cultural capitals — as its model.

"We studied Barcelona very closely. The Olympics enabled Barcelona to rediscover its waterfront. I think the Olympics will enable Turin to rediscover the Alps," Castellani said with a nod to the

distant snowcapped mountains visible from his top-floor office.

"Being the city of the Winter Olympics, we won't be just the city of Fiat and the city of factories anymore, but the city of the Alps."

But can Turin also be a city of sports?

"We don't have any sporting culture, at least not for these sports. People don't even go to the stadium to watch soccer here," said Antonio Catabano, a 31-year-old resident of Venaria Reale just outside Turin.

Juventus, one of Europe's most famous soccer clubs, plays most of its home matches inside a half-filled stadium.

"I think the Olympics will be different, it's a one-time opportunity and I think people will make sacrifices," Catabano said as he left an Olympic exhibition set up in one of Turin's main squares, alongside a temporary ice skating rink.

Booed by large crowds at the speedskating and figure skating events, Castellani is confident the fans will come out a year from now.

"We've already sold more than half of the tickets," he said. "The Olympic Games have a special attraction and the Italian team is strong at winter sports."

But Castellani wants to do more than just put on a sporting event — he wants to offer the Olympics a slice of Italian style, culture and cuisine.

"I think that is what our country is loved for," he said. "I hope that the spectators immerse themselves in our offering of culture, shopping, music and museums, good food and fine wines."

"I realize that the core business of the Olympics are the races. But for the spectators, the races are just one part of it all."

AP Sports Writer Stephen Wilson in London contributed to this report.

Athletes test Olympic venues' readiness

Skating, skiing get high marks; track deemed dangerous

By JO-ANN BARNAS
Knight Ridder Newspapers

DETROIT — As far as he could tell, everything was going well.

Mark Grimmerite of Muskegon, Mich. knew January had been a successful turn-around month for organizers of the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. An array of test events had inaugurated several venues without the alarming headlines that seemed to accompany every turn of last summer's Athens Olympics.

A cross-country ski race in the mountain valley of Pragelato had gone off without a hitch. Larger-than-expected crowds flocked to the Palavela skating rink in Turin ("Torino" in Italian) for the European championships in figure skating and short-track speedskating.

Bobsled and skeleton proved successful back-to-back competitions at Cesana — at the same track where Grimmerite, a two-time Olympic medalist with luge doubles partner Brian Martin, was hoping for quality racing at last weekend's World Cup.

Before it was canceled, that is. Grimmerite was settled in his hotel in the winter tourist destination of Sestriere when he got word last Thursday that the International Luge Federation had canceled the weekend's races because of safety issues concerning the track.

Bobsled and skeleton injuries had occurred during practice last week. The most seriously hurt was a Brazilian luger who suffered head injuries when his sled overtook on a run.

"They have to work on some of the curves," Grimmerite said by phone from Sestriere, where he was packing for his return flight to the United States. "It's a safety issue."

Grimmerite cited concerns with curves 17-18 — "a lefty with a narrow window of making the curve correctly," he said — though the luge federation didn't specify which areas of the highly technical track need to be simplified.

In early January, Grimmerite and Martin, who won Olympic silver in 2002 and bronze in 1998, were the first luge doubles



Japan's Koshun Tojo slides down the track during a men's skeleton world cup competition at the Cesana-Parol track, northern Italy on Jan. 20. Competitions at the track have been canceled after five crashes occurred during practice runs and the track was deemed unsafe.

team to christen the Olympic track at the request of the Italians.

"We had six runs," Grimmerite said of the ceremonial opening.

"The first two were singles, and the next four were doubles. The track is in fairly decent shape, but it's not an easy track. After the track crew has a chance to work on it — we found that out in Nagano and Salt Lake City — over time it becomes easier. We're still discovering where the driving points are and how to use the pressures efficiently, and that can be a difficult process."

"Brian and I were looking forward to racing here, but we understand why they called the event."

With the one-year countdown to the 2006 Winter Games two days away, last weekend's cancellation of the luge World Cup was a black eye Olympic organizers wanted to avoid.

Preparations already had been slowed by construction delays, just as they were in Athens. The hockey arena won't be finished until late summer or early fall. And, just like every Games, transportation is a major concern because of few major highways.

Last week in Sestriere, Grimmerite

stayed at a hotel next to a construction site that, when finished, will serve as one of three Olympic Villages. The other two will be in Turin and Bardonecchia. "We're seeing the cranes constructing it as we speak," said Grimmerite, 34. "It looks like Salt Lake did about a year out. Where we are right now, it's all mountain roads — no highways."

The United States finished second to Germany in the medal count at the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics, 35-34. The medal count was an all-time high for the Americans — almost triple their best previous total.

Three years later, the U.S. team is in the midst of its best pre-Olympic season in recent history. Last weekend affirmed that with several outstanding performances, including Bode Miller's downhill skiing title at the world championships in Bormio, Italy. It was a first for the Americans — Teammate Daron Rahvles finished second.

Shani Davis and Chad Hedrick went 1-2 overall at the world all-around speedskating championships in Moscow, and Jeremy Bloom won his fourth straight World Cup in moguls in Inawashiro, Japan. Another American, Jeret Peterson, won a World Cup in aerials Saturday in Beijing.

Other highlights this season include a victory by woman bobsledder Jean Racine of Waterford and brakeman Vonneta Flowers in last month's World Cup event at St. Moritz, Switzerland.

Before he suffered a foot injury in a freak accident at the Olympic track in Italy, men's bobsledder Todd Hays had picked up two World Cup victories in the four-man event this winter.

Women's long-track speedskater Jennifer Rodriguez recently captured the world sprint championships in her sport.

In figure skating, Michelle Kwan, Sasha Cohen, Johnny Weir and Tim Goebel remain America's best hopes for a medal in women's and men's singles in Turin. They will compete using the new computerized points-based system instead of the century-old 6.0 scale that spawned the judging controversy in the pairs event at the 2002 Winter Games.

Still unsettled is the makeup of the U.S. men's Olympic hockey team because of the NHL lockout. There will be a team, but no one knows what form it will take — college kids or a roster of NHL veterans. The men's and women's teams will be looking to win gold medals after losing their respective championship games to Canada at the Salt Lake Games.

U.S. sets ambitious goals for medal haul in Italy

By EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Leaders of the U.S. Olympic movement have set easily understood goals for Turin — not the most gold medals and the most medals overall.

"Our athletes don't enter competitions to finish second," U.S. Olympic Committee chief executive Jim Scherr said.

History, however, indicates the goals will be tough to reach.

Competing on home turf in 2002, the Americans finished with 34 medals, breaking their own Winter Olympics record by a staggering 21, but still finishing with one fewer medal than top winner Germany.



Speedskater Shani Davis led a 1-2 U.S. finish at the world championships and could be a contender for an Olympic medal in Turin.

While Scherr refuses to set a specific numerical goal, like the mark of 100 U.S. leaders set for

the Athens Summer Games (the U.S. won 103), he thinks it will take about 30 medals to lead all countries next year in Italy.

If the United States continues moving forward as it has been, 30 is well within reach. The more daunting trend, however, is the one that shows countries win an average of 47 percent fewer medals in the Olympics that come after those they host.

"We might not get there in Torino. We might. But our goal is still to win," Scherr said.

Unlike many former winter hosts, the United States is a large country with plentiful resources. Steve Roush, the USOC's chief of sport performance, said the United States has not suffered the traditional post-hosting money hang-

over. In fact, he said overall USOC funding to the winter sport programs has increased between 2002 and 2006 to around \$35 million.

Over the next month or so, Roush will begin gauging America's chances by looking at how athletes are doing in a number of world championship events going on around the globe. Specifically, he'll be charting the top five finishers in each event; the more Americans among those lists, the more optimistic his projections will be.

Early signs show the Americans definitely have the athletes to hit the target.

Skiers Bode Miller and Daron Rahvles are at or near the top in the world — part of a men's al-

pine team that has set a goal of winning five medals. The American women have Lindsey Kildow and Kristina Koznick, each of whom have won races this year.

The United States dominated in newer sports like snowboarding and freestyle skiing in 2002. Figure skating has produced medals for the U.S. at every Olympics since 1948. Short-track speed skater Apolo Ohno won two medals in Salt Lake and is leading the World Cup standings this season.

Roush said the key to America's success is its ever-growing depth in several sports.

"That's the way to ensure more chances of medaling, because on any given day, anyone can rise up and perform," Roush said. "When you just have one, it's not the hope and the prayer. They may not be on that day."



Syracuse's Hakim Warrick drives the baseline against Connecticut's Josh Boone during the first half in Syracuse, N.Y., on Monday.

Huskies snap Syracuse's 16-game win streak

BY JOHN KEKIS
The Associated Press

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Jim Calhoun was beginning to have some doubts about his Connecticut Huskies after they lost three of their first seven Big East games. Now, the defending national champions are emerging as a team to be feared.

"We're young and have paid that price during the season," Calhoun said Monday night after No. 19 Connecticut, which starts a junior, three sophomores and a freshman, handed eighth-ranked Syracuse its first home loss in nearly a year.

Top 25 roundup

"We're making some progress, and to make progress here against a program, coach and players, four who won a national championship, it's the biggest win we have had this year," he said.

Sophomore forward Charlie Villanueva led the way with 21 points and 10 rebounds, and Connecticut closed the game with a 9-1 run for a 74-66 victory, ending the Orange's 16-game home winning streak.

The last time Syracuse (21-3, 8-2 Big East) lost in the Carrier Dome was last Feb. 16 to Notre Dame.

Villanueva outscored Syracuse 7-5 over the final eight minutes as the Huskies (15-5, 7-3) won for the fourth time in five games.

That was a dramatic turnaround from his previous game — Calhoun said Villanueva was in tears after scoring just three points in Connecticut's win over St. John's on Saturday.

"This was a huge win for us," said Villanueva, whose reverse layup put the Huskies up for good, 67-65, with 2:47 left and sent Terrence Roberts to the Syracuse bench with his fifth foul. "For me personally, it was as huge as it gets. This was a big game in a tough place to play."

Foul trouble plagued Syracuse in the final minutes. Hakim Warrick, the team's leading scorer, was called for his fourth foul with 11:44 remaining. Just more than a minute later, center Darryl Watkins picked up his fourth, then Josh Pace and Roberts joined them. Overall, the Orange were called for 24

fouls and Warrick missed 5:40 of the second half. Connecticut was called for 15 fouls, only six in the second half.

"I feel like just screaming and beating everybody up. We let one slip away," said junior guard Gerry McNamara, who was hounded relentlessly by the Connecticut defense and scored just nine points, 10 below his average in conference play.

"I looked at the scoreboard once and our five players on the court had 17 fouls," he said. "It's tough to play aggressive."

No. 10 Oklahoma St. 79, No. 16 Oklahoma 67: James On Curry and Joey Graham each scored 22 points and host Oklahoma State beat Oklahoma to earn a split in the Bedlam rivalry this season.

Ivan McFarlin added 13 points and 10 rebounds, and John Lucas III scored 12 of his 15 points in the second half for the Cowboys (18-3, 8-2 Big 12), who pulled away behind Curry's accurate shooting and enthusiastic play.

No. 15 Utah 57, UNLV 53: At Las Vegas, Bryant Markson scored 19 points and Utah overcame an off night by Andrew Bogut to extend its winning streak to 15 games.

The Utes (20-3, 8-0 Mountain West) only led by one with less than a minute to play but closed the game by making four of six foul shots.

The Rebels (9-11, 2-6) mounted a spirited comeback late in the second half, going on an 11-2 run that was capped by Louis Amundson's dunk to cut the deficit to 52-48 with 4:07 left.

No. 22 Villanova 67, Saint Joseph's 52: At Philadelphia, Jason Fraser had 14 points and 14 rebounds, and Villanova withstood a second-half rally by Saint Joseph's.

With the sweltering Palestra rocking in the latest meeting between these local rivals, the crowd at the famed home of the Big 5 saw another wild one in the series' 84-year history.

Villanova (14-5) used a full-court press, hustling guard play and the best game of the season from the oft-injured Fraser to take a 21-point lead midway through the second half. The Wildcats then hung on for their fifth win in six games.

USA's Mancuso earns second bronze medal

The Associated Press

SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy — Julia Mancuso was mostly unbothered before the Alpine World Championships started, with Lindsey Kilbow getting all the hype for the U.S. ski team.

Look who is the center of attention now.

After winning her second bronze at worlds Tuesday in the giant slalom, the cool Californian has fared better than the more highly rated Kilbow. Mancuso also took third in the super giant slalom that opened the championships, while also finishing fourth in the combined and downhill.

"[Kilbow] has had a really awesome year but I don't really worry about that stuff much," said Mancuso, who shares a healthy rivalry with her teammate. "People can forget about me. I was skiing well and I didn't have any pressure. I guess I just like big races."

The 20-year-old Mancuso set the U.S. record for junior world championship medals with eight,

and posted top-10 World Cup results in all four disciplines this season. But she never finished in the top three on the senior circuit before these worlds.

Mancuso set up her latest medal finish with a solid first run.

Skiing with the Lenny Kravitz tune "American Woman" blaring on the loud speakers, she came in seventh, just 0.72 seconds behind winner and eventual winner Anja Paerson of Sweden.

On the second run, Mancuso fared even better, registering the third fastest time to end up 0.64 seconds behind. She said medalizing in the giant slalom was her most satisfying result.

"It was a little bit different because I skied really well," she said. "The other day was kind of a weird day when a lot of people went out. It just gave me confidence that anything could happen."

There have been plenty of expectations for Mancuso since her junior days. But she did not break through as quickly as expected, maybe because she is an all-around skier who competes in



Julia Mancuso speeds down the course on her way to the bronze medal in the giant slalom Tuesday.

all four disciplines without excelling in any of them.

U.S. women's coach Patrick Rinn thinks Mancuso is among "the most talented skiers in the world," and it helps to have Kilbow on the same team.

"The way she skies all four events, when she gets on a roll she's very hard to stop," Rinn said. "I think it's a very positive environment. They push each other. They want to be the best and one day Lindsey's faster, one day Julia's faster. It just keeps them working harder."

Wade, Ginobili lead list of NBA All-Star reserves

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Miami's Dwyane Wade and San Antonio's Manu Ginobili were among six players picked as NBA All-Stars for the first time when reserves were announced Tuesday.

Gilbert Arenas and Antawn Jamison of the Washington Wizards, Amare Stoudemire of the Phoenix Suns, and Rashard Lewis of the Seattle SuperSonics also gained their first All-Star selections in balloting by the NBA's 30 head coaches.

Cleveland's LeBron James, chosen as an Eastern Conference starter last week, is a first-time All-Star too. The seven first-time All-Star selections of the record of 10 in 2002 and 1994.

The East's other reserves for Feb. 20 game in Denver are centers Zydrunas Ilgauskas of Cleveland and Ben Wallace of Detroit, forward Jermaine O'Neal of Indiana, and guard Paul Pierce of Boston.

Guards Steve Nash of Phoenix and Ray Allen of Seattle, and forwards Dirk Nowitzki of Dallas and Shawn Marion of Phoenix

were selected for the Western Conference team.

Among those left off the rosters were New Jersey's Jason Kidd, who had played in every All-Star game since 1998, and Orlando's Steve Francis, a three-time All-Star.

A noteworthy absentee was Sacramento center Brad Miller, who apparently fell victim to Western Conference coaches filling in Stoudemire as a center. Coaches were required to select two guards, two forwards, one center and two other players regardless of position.

The Kings also have three other players with 11 combined previous All-Star appearances — Chris Webber, Peja Stojakovic and Mike Bibby. Two were left off this year's team.

The East's starters are Philadelphia's Allen Iverson, Miami's Shaquille O'Neal, New Jersey's Vince Carter, Orlando's Grant Hill and James.

Kobe Bryant of the Lakers, Tracy McGrady and Yao Ming of Houston, Kevin Garnett of Minnesota and Tim Duncan of San Antonio will start for the West.

SPORTS



President Bush among those denying steroid claims made in Canseco's book
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Road to Detroit already mapped

Eagles' path seems smooth compared with Pats'

BY BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. — One of the most impressive aspects of the Patriots' third Super Bowl title in four years is the string of teams they beat in the postseason.

New England defeated the Colts and Steelers in the AFC playoffs, then edged the Eagles in the NFL title game. Those four teams were the best in football this season, and all should be formidable again come September.

Several other AFC teams — the Chargers, Jets, Ravens, and possibly the Bills, Chiefs and Jaguars — also could provide a roadblock for the champions next season.

Philadelphia faces a far easier path in the NFC in its bid to get back to the big game. Other than the Eagles, who is a contender to meet the AFC champion in Detroit next February?

Perhaps Atlanta, although the Eagles manhandled the Falcons in the NFC title game and are eons ahead of them in talent, organization and experience.

A healthy Carolina might be a factor, but these Eagles match up better than they did against the Panthers in their January '04 playoff meeting.

Anybody else?

Some team always comes out of nowhere to contend, but to think any NFC club is ready to knock off the Eagles — especially after they finally scaled their biggest hurdle by getting into the Super Bowl — doesn't make much sense right now.

"We'll be back," All-Pro receiver Terrell Owens said. "We have more to do."

And they have been through the Super Bowl crucible.

"I think that the positive you get out of it is that the guys got a taste of it," coach

Andy Reid said, "and I'm sure they will want to come back."

Of course they want to come back, and they probably want another shot at the Patriots.

The Eagles don't have any salary cap woes and most of their free agents are expendable. Donovan McNabb, Brian Westbrook, Jevon Kearse, Lito Sheppard and Michael Lewis are only approaching their primes. Older veterans Owens, Brian Dawkins, Jeremiah Trotter and David Akers are coming off superb seasons.

New England hardly is falling apart, either. While the Patriots don't have as much salary cap space as the Eagles, they aren't hard against the spending ceiling. Their biggest questions are how well they can replace coordinators Romeo Crennel, now Cleveland's head coach, and Charlie Weiss, now at Notre Dame.

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Quarterbacks Tom Brady of the Patriots and Donovan McNabb of the Eagles meet after Sunday's Super Bowl. Will they meet again next year at Detroit's Ford Field?

Mancuso storms gate for bronze



American Julia Mancuso passes a gate during the first run of the women's giant slalom in the World Alpine Ski Championships on Tuesday. She used a strong second run to move up from seventh and win the bronze medal. Anja Paerson won gold. See story on Page 38.



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has Zama
thinking big

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Strong finish
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Like Sox, Patriots' journey ends with rolling rally Page 35

